



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Bedford

FOR THE YEAR

1935.

BY

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Together with the Report of
F. C. HAYNES, Cert. R. San. I., M.S.I.A.,
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

BEDFORD
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

Chairman—Alderman M. J. STAPLETON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor E. G. EELES.

Alderman H. R. NEATE, J.P. (Mayor).

Councillor Mrs. E. L. MARTIN, J.P. (Deputy Mayor).

Alderman W. E. SOWTER, J.P.

Councillor F. P. H. COWER.

Councillor Mrs. M. M. KENNEY-HERBERT.

Councillor W. P. MELDRUM, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.T.M.

Councillor REV. A. W. RAMSAY MURRAY, B.A.

MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Councillor Mrs. E. L. MARTIN, J.P. (Deputy Mayor).

Vice-Chairman—Councillor Mrs. M. M. KENNEY-HERBERT.

Alderman H. R. NEATE, J.P. (Mayor).

Councillor W. P. MELDRUM, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.T.M.

Councillor REV. A. W. RAMSAY MURRAY, B.A.

Councillor A. E. OSBORNE, B.A., B.Sc., J.P.

Co-opted Members—

Mrs. W. M. MACASKIE. Mrs. J. M. MYERS-DAWES. Mrs. W. G. NASH.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

(a) MEDICAL.

**Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent
of Isolation Hospital**

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Maternity and Child Welfare Centre
(part time)

DORA MASON, M.A., M.B., B.S.

(b) DENTAL.

Dental Surgeon for Maternity and Child Welfare Work

V. A. VASEY, L.D.S.

(c) OTHER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

F. C. HAYNES, Cert. R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector

J. F. WILKINSON, M.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector

J. N. MARTIN, A.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerks

F. J. DIX.

E. J. CONSTABLE.

G. T. EAST.

Miss M. A. WARD.

Laboratory Assistant

F. E. CASEMORE.

Health Visitor, and Inspector of Midwives

Miss B. M. RODGERS, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Health Visitors and School Nurses

Miss A. DICKSON, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Miss F. D. COOPER, S.R.N., H.V. Cert. R. San. I.

Matron. Isolation Hospitals

Miss I. T. MCGROUTHER, S.R.N.

The staff of the Isolation Hospital consists of the
Matron, three Staff Nurses and three Probationers.

Public Analyst

J. KEAR COLWELL, F.I.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

1st June, 1936.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Bedford.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1935.

To judge from the general death rate of 11.0, which may be compared with the figure of 11.9 for the preceding year, the health of the town was good.

Unfortunately, however, the influences which for some years past had kept Bedford free from diphtheria were during the year under review no longer effective, and this disease made its appearance in epidemic form. The extent and severity of its manifestation was, however, much less than in the recent experience of many towns of more industrial and generally less healthy type than Bedford.

The most important legislative enactment of the year was the Housing Act, 1935, relating among other matters to the prevention of overcrowding. The greater part of the work of this Act was carried out during 1936 and therefore will not be described in this Report.

In conclusion, I have to express my thanks for the valuable assistance I have received during the year from the Town Clerk, the Borough Surveyor, and the Housing Manager, as also for the loyal support of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his colleagues, and of all the members of the Health Visiting and Nursing Staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. K. BOWES,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

Annual Report

OF

Medical Officer of Health

For 1935.

I. Statistics and Social Conditions.

1.—Vital Statistics and General Observations.

Area of Borough	4,972 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1935						43,380
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1935) according to						
Rate Books	11,921
Rateable Value on December 31st, 1935	£345,083
Sum produced by a penny rate, half year ended 30th						
September, 1935, estimated	£1,367

The most important industry in Bedford is usually stated to be its schools. In addition to these a large number of men are employed in the various engineering works in the Borough, while some find employment at Luton in the engineering and motor works there, while others are employed in the brickworks in the neighbouring villages. There is employment, largely seasonal in character, for girls and women in a large confectionery works in the Borough.

The following figures show the amount of unemployment in the Borough and its immediate neighbourhood at the beginning of the present year in comparison with 1935. It will be seen that as compared with many districts the position is favourable.

		<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>
Period ending 20/1/36	672	169	22	36
Corresponding period 1935	...	793	204	27	27

The following table gives extracts from the vital statistics of the year as furnished by the Registrar-General.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1935.

Live Births—

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>		
Legitimate	...	533	287	246	Birth Rate per 1,000 of	
Illegitimate	...	25	19	6	population	... 12.9
Still Births	...	13	4	9	Rate per 1,000 total	
					(live and still) births	22.8
Deaths	478	222	256	Death Rate per 1,000	
					population	... 11.0

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:—

From Sepsis	1
From other causes	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Total	...	25	Rate per 1,000 live births	...	45
Legitimate	...	23	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births		43
Illegitimate	...	2	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births		80

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 0.

I am indebted to Mr. C. E. Craddock, the Rating and Valuation Officer, for the following statement relating to the estimated number of houses and population. It will be noted that Mr. Craddock's estimate of the population is considerably above that of the Registrar-General's.

“ I am pleased to supply the following information:—

Old Borough—

Estimated number of houses, 31st December, 1934	...	10,731
Added during 1935, less pulled down	...	169
		—
Estimated number of houses, 31st December, 1935	...	10,900
Less empty, 31st December, 1935	...	128
		—
Estimated number of occupied houses, 31st December, 1935	...	10,772
		—
Estimated population at 4 per house	...	43,088

Added Area—

Estimated number of occupied houses 31st December, 1935	1,149
Estimated population, worked out on the various 1931	
Census averages for the different areas	3,951
<hr/>	
Estimated population for the whole Borough 31st	
December, 1935	47,039
<hr/>	

In the old Borough the average of 4 persons per house has been well maintained. In preparing the 1935 Register of Electors, I found that the removals from flats had been replaced by newcomers to the Borough, and that lodgers (both male and female) were increasing in number. New houses are readily occupied and the number of empty houses has decreased."

2.—Population.

The population as supplied by the Registrar-General for mid-1935 was 43,380. The fact that building development is still taking place in the Borough, that houses let in lodgings are continually filling up after removal of old tenants, that there is an apparent increase in lodgers in private families, and that one meets in various ways a large number of immigrant families from other areas may be taken as an indication that the estimated population is in reality too low.

I am indebted to Mr. Craddock, the Rating and Valuation Officer, for the following estimate of the population of the recently consituted wards of the Borough on the assumption that the total population as given by the Registrar-General is correct.

Name of Ward.	No. of occupied houses 31st December, 1935.	Allocation of population on basis of Registrar General's estimate for June, 1935.
Castle	1,835	6,825
Cauldwell	1,906	6,995
De Parys	1,748	6,242
Harpur	1,596	5,899
Kingsbrook	1,424	5,087
Newnham	1,820	6,499
Queens Park	1,592	5,833
<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals	11,921	43,380
<hr/>		<hr/>

The natural increase of population or difference between birth and death rates was 1.9 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 0.7 for the preceding year.

3.—Birth Rate.

The birth rate for the year under review was 12.9 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 12.6 for the preceding year. The corresponding figures for England and Wales were 14.7 and 14.8 respectively. The slight increase in the birth rate for the Borough may be accounted for by the fact that 1935 is the first complete year for which rates are calculated for the extended Borough.

The rates for the wards are shown as follows. The figures are based on numbers of notified births, with corrections for residences of parents, supplemented by information of unnotified births from the local Registrar, and by information from the Registrar-General with regard to births taking place outside the Borough where the parents are resident within the Borough. After making the foregoing corrections any discrepancy between notified and registered births is so small as to be negligible.

Ward.				Number of Live Births.	Still Births.	Live Births Rates.	
Castle	83	1	...	12.1
Cauldwell	103	3	...	16.2
De Parys	70	2	...	11.2
Harpur	76	1	...	12.9
Kingsbrook	90	3	...	17.7
Newnham	62	2	...	9.5
Queens Park	79	1	...	13.5
Totals				563	13		12.9

4.—Death Rate.

The death rate for the year under review was 11.0 per thousand, which may be compared with the figure of 11.9 for 1934. The corresponding figures for England and Wales for 1935 and 1934 are 11.7 and 11.8 respectively. In order to make allowance for the different age and sex constitutions in comparing the death rate of Bedford with that of the country as a whole, use is made of the Registrar-General's "comparability factor," as described in my last year's report. By multiplying this factor, .88 for Bedford, an "adjusted" death rate of 9.27 is attained. After thus making allowance for the greater average age of the inhabitants of Bedford as compared with the country as a whole it will be seen that the death

rate of Bedford is considerably below that of the country as a whole, and indicates the greater healthiness of the town.

The deaths and rates for the four successive quarters (that is, successive periods of thirteen weeks corresponding as nearly as possible to the calendar year) of the year are as follows :—

			Number of Deaths	Quarterly Death Rate
1st Quarter	134	12.4
2nd Quarter	117	10.8
3rd Quarter	105	9.7
4th Quarter	125	11.5

The following table shows the death rates for the various wards in the Borough :—

Ward			Number of Deaths (year ending Dec. 31, 1935)	Rate per thousand population
Castle	94	13.8
Cauldwell	63	9.0
De Parys	82	13.1
Harpur	58	9.8
Kingsbrook	50	9.8
Newnham	70	10.8
Queens Park	66	11.3
Total			483*	11.1

* This figure compiled from local returns shows a slight discrepancy from the figures furnished by the Registrar General, the cause of which is unexplained, but which is too small for significance.

The differences in the rates of the various wards are determined largely by differences in age and sex constitution of their populations.

5.—Causes of Death: Statistics.

The table immediately following, supplied by the Registrar-General, gives the causes of deaths of residents in the Borough during the year 1935, and the next table gives for comparison the birth rate, general death rate, and death rate for certain specified causes for the country as a whole, and for certain groups of the population, together with figures for notification of infectious diseases. In this table the Borough rates have been inserted for comparison.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of { England and Wales, London, 121
Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and { Great Towns, 140 Smaller Towns,
Case-rates for certain Infectious } together with Bedford rates.
Diseases in the year 1935.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	Bedford Borough	England and Wales	121 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	140 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administra- tive County
Rates per 1,000 Population					
BIRTHS :					
Live	12.8	14.7	14.8	14.8	13.3
Still	0.29	0.62	0.68	0.64	0.52
DEATHS :					
All Causes	11.0	11.7	11.8	11.2	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	—	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04
Diphtheria	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.06
Influenza	0.36	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.11
Violence	0.30	0.52	0.45	0.41	0.51
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2.63	2.96	3.19	2.75	2.64
Diphtheria	0.99	1.60	1.96	1.34	2.25
Enteric Fever	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.05
Erysipelas	0.25	0.42	0.48	0.37	0.45
Pneumonia	1.11	1.15	1.36	0.98	0.89
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	45	57	62	55	58
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	0.00	5.7	7.9	3.8	11.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis	1.79	1.68	} Not available.		
Others	0.00	2.42			
Total	1.79	4.10			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)					
MATERNAL MORTALITY :					
Puerperal Sepsis	1.75	1.61	} Not available.		
Others	—	2.32			
Total	1.75	3.93			
NOTIFICATIONS :					
Puerperal Fever	3.50	3.60	4.55	2.76	4.32
Puerperal Pyrexia	28.02	9.44	11.14	8.25	11.89

At the present time the prevalence of influenza often determines whether the death rate shall be above or below the average. In the year under review, though influenza accounted for more deaths than last year, yet this number was not so high as in the years of greatest epidemic prevalence during the last decade. The following table shows for the last ten years the number of deaths which have occurred from influenza and those diseases which are largely associated with it :—

Year.		Influenza.		Pneumonia.		Bronchitis.
1926	...	12	...	23	...	21
1927	...	36	...	15	...	25
1928	...	8	...	16	...	25
1929	...	36	...	14	...	27
1930	...	8	...	11	...	14
1931	...	22	...	19	...	33
1932	...	28	...	20	...	20
1933	...	27	...	20	...	22
1934	...	7	...	18	...	25
1935	...	16	...	19	...	19

Two deaths were due to diphtheria in children, both girls, and both aged six years. Two deaths were due to scarlet fever in adults, both female, aged 54 years and 35 years. No deaths were due to measles, whooping cough or typhoid. One death was due to encephalitis lethargica. One death was due to puerperal sepsis. Twenty-six deaths were on account of respiratory, and four on account of non-respiratory tuberculosis. Cancer accounted for seventy-five deaths. There were two deaths due to suicide.

Two deaths of Borough residents occurred as the result of motor accidents within or outside the Borough boundary. One was of a man aged 25, a passenger in a motor car, and the other of a pedal cyclist, a man aged 54, who collided with a motor car. Six deaths occurred on account of road accidents within the Borough boundary, in which number are included the two Borough residents mentioned.

6.—Infant Mortality.

The following table shows Infant Mortality from stated causes on the basis of the Registrar-General's classification in weeks and months under one year of age.

Cause	Weeks.				Total under one month	Months.				Total under one year.
	0—	1—	2—	3—		1—	3—	6—	9—	
Convulsions	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Congenital Malformations	3*	‡2	5	5
Premature Birth	6	...	1	1	8	1	9
Injury at Birth	2	2	2
Icterus Neonatorum	1	1
Melaena Neonatorum	1	1	1
Umbilical Sepsis	1	1
Cellulitis of Leg	1	...	1
Asphyxia due to enlarged Thymus Gland	1	1
Secondary Hæmorrhage, post operative Tonsils and Adenoids	1	1
Totals	11	3	1	1	16	5	2	1	1	25

* All Congenital Heart Disease.

‡ Including 1 case of Congenital Heart Disease and one of Spina Bifida.

Of the total 25, 15 were males and 10 females. The total number of deaths under one year corresponds to an infant mortality rate of 45 per thousand, which may be compared with 57, the figure for England and Wales. One may note that of the total number no less than 11 took place in the first week of life, 16 in the first month, and 9 in the remaining eleven months of the year. Nine deaths were attributed to premature birth, and a further 9 to other diseases of early infancy (congenital malformations, birth injury, icterus and melaena neonatorum), over which preventive measures have little or no control.

II. General Provision of Health Services
in the Area.

1.—Laboratory Facilities.

There have been no changes in the arrangements for the examination of swabs, sputa and other materials.

The following tables show the work carried out in the municipal laboratory during the year.

Examination of Pathological Material.

Specimens Examined.	Totals.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria—Routine Examinations.			
Local Practitioners	179	26	153
Isolation Hospital	240	20	220
Outside Authorities	19	4	15
Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer ...	101	2	99
Tuberculosis (Sputums)	18	—	18
Ringworm	1	—	1
Other bacteriological examinations ...	—	—	—
Totals	558	52	506

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Bottles.

Total.	Sterile.	Not-sterile.
6	1	5

Examination of Milk Samples by Gerber Tests.

Total.	Up to Standard.	Below Standard.
352	306	46

Specimens which cannot be examined adequately in the Laboratory are sent to the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine.

The number of samples so sent during the year under review was as follows :—

			Total	Positive	Negative
Enteric Fever : Agglutination Tests					
(Widal reaction)	...		2	—	2
„ „ Faeces	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever : Haemolytic	1	—	1
Streptococci					

2.—Ambulance Facilities.

No change took place in the ambulance arrangements for the Borough, and these arrangements may be said to be adequate.

3.—Nursing in the Home.

No change took place in the arrangements in the area for general nursing or for the nursing of infectious diseases.

4.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There were no changes in the Clinics and Treatment Centres during the year under review apart from the institution of a diphtheria immunisation clinic held on Thursdays at 2.30 p.m. at the School Clinic, Bromham Road, to which reference is made later.

5.—Hospitals.

No change took place in the hospital arrangements of the Borough.

6.—Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.

There have been no changes in arrangements under this heading.

7.—Midwifery and Maternity Services.

(a) Midwives Acts 1902-1926.

During the year 29 midwives sent in notifications of their intention to practise midwifery. Many of these notifications refer to midwives in institutions who have taken temporary duty only.

The number of midwives in ordinary private practice who notified their intention to practise was 10; and in addition to this number one district nurse undertakes midwifery in addition to general nursing in the area of the old parish of Goldington, now included in the Borough, and during the earlier part of the year the Cardington district nurse attended a few cases in the Borough. Since some of the midwives practising in the Borough also practise outside, figures in brackets are given to indicate the total number of cases attended by midwives whether within or without the area.

Midwives—Cases Attended.

	No.	As Midwife.	As Maternity Nurse.	Total.
Midwives in private practice	10	293 (379)	74 (82)	367 (461)
District Nurses	2	11 (15)	2 (5)	13 (20)
Midwives attached to Bed- ford County Hospital	7	129 (129)	27 (27)	156 (156)
Midwives attached to Public Assistance Institution	9	70 (70)	14 (14)	84 (84)
Midwife attached to Bed- ford and County Girls' Home	1	26 (26)	—	26 (26)
	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	29	529 (619)	117 (128)	646 (747)
	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the number of notices received from those midwives in general and institutional practice. Midwives when acting as Maternity Nurses are responsible for sending those notices only marked with an asterisk.

Midwives—Notices Received.

		Midwives in Private Practice and District Nurses.	Midwives in Institutions.	Total.
Sending for medical help	83	83	166
Deaths of (1) Mothers	—	—	—
(2) Children	4	2	6
Stillbirths	5	7	12
*Laying out the dead	4	—	4
*Contact with infection	6	—	6
Artificial feeding	7	32	39
		—	—	—
		109	124	233
		—	—	—

The following table shows the causes why medical help was sought in the case of mother or child.

Midwives—Medical Help.

MOTHER.

PRIVATE MIDWIVES.				MIDWIVES IN INSTITUTIONS.			
Albuminuria	6	Albuminaria	4
Pain and sleeplessness	1	Ante-partum haemorrhage	8
Influenza	1	Post-partum haemorrhage	1
Pain and vomiting	1	Placenta Praevia	1
Severe vomiting	2	Prolapsed cord	1
History of P.P.H. at previous	1	Prolapsed cord and breech	1
confinement	1	Prolapsed cord and ante-partum	1
Ill-health through sleeplessness	1	haemorrhage	11
Vaginal discharge	1	Prolonged labour	4
Severe abdominal pain	1	Breech	1
Threatened abortion	1	Twins	1
Haemorrhage in pregnancy	2	Breech twins	2
Uncertain lie of child	1	Footling	1
Prolonged labour	10	Posterior position	1
Adherent placenta	1	Forceps required	1
Shock	1	Vomiting	1
Post Partum haemorrhage	1	Pyrexia	2
Liq. Amnii escaping	1	Eclamptic fit	1
Torn perineum	27	Retained placenta	3
Pyrexia	6	Torn perineum	27
Torn perineum and post partum	1	Still-birth	2
haemorrhage	1	Macerated foetus	1
			67				75

CHILD.

Imperforate penis	1	Haemorrhage from mouth and	1
Feeble baby	1	rectum	2
Illness of infant	1	Prematurity	3
Premature baby	2	Discharging eye	1
Melaena	1	Spina Bifida	1
Bloodstained vomit	1	Dangerous feebleness	1
Discharge from eyes	8				
Spina bifida	1				
			16				8

One combined call for mother and child, torn perineum and spina bifida included in one form.

One combined call for mother and child, dangerous feebleness and torn perineum included in one form.

In actual working the conditions under which medical help is sought cannot be quite the same in institutional practice as in private practice. The percentage in which medical help was sought in private practice is set out below :—

BEDFORD HEALTH REPORT

In Private Practice.

Medical Help Percentages.

	Cases attended.	Medical Help Sought.	Percentages.
Mother ...	} 304	67	22.0%
Child ...		16	5.3%
Total : Mother and Child ...	304	83	27.3%

Miss B. M. Rodgers, S.R.N., H.V. Cert., R. San. I., carries out the duties as Inspector of Midwives. The following table shows the work carried out in this connection.

Inspection of Midwives.

Number of routine visits to midwives ...	38
Number of special visits to midwives ...	13
Number of interviews at office with midwives ...	12
Number of visits of enquiry other than to midwives arising out of matters under the Midwives Act apart from medical help ...	3
Number of visits in connection with medical help ...	49
Number of useless visits (midwife or patient not at home) ...	11
Total visits or interviews ...	126

Under Section 14 of the Midwives' Act, 1918, the Council is responsible for repayment of the fees of doctors called in by midwives, and recovering all or part of the cost from the patient, except in those cases where the doctor obtains his fee directly from the patient, or there is any other arrangement for payment of the doctor. The following table shows the number of cases in which fees were claimed and the amount of such fees, together with the amount recovered. Notices received from those midwives working in institutions where medical officers do not claim fees from the Town Council are not included in the table :—

Medical Help—Fees Paid and Recovered.

Number of cases in which midwives in private or district practice or in the Girls' Home sent for medical help	102
Number of cases in which doctors claimed fees from the Town Council	77
Amount of doctor's fees paid by the Town Council	£87 1 6
Amount recovered from the patients	£47 16 0

The amount received from patients includes a sum of £35 13s. 6d. paid up to December 31st, 1935, in respect of patients in which medical help was sought during the year under review and £12 2s. 6d. in respect of patients for whom medical help was sought during previous years.

Midwives were suspended from practice for short periods on account of liability to be a source of infection in 4 cases relating to 3 midwives. Compensation to the amount of £5 2s. 6d. was paid to 2 of the midwives in question on account of such suspension.

In order to compensate midwives for loss of fees in those cases where their patients for whom they have carried out ante-natal care are removed to hospital, your Maternity and Child Welfare Committee pays compensation of 15s. in respect of each case. During the year £3 compensation was paid in respect of 4 cases.

(b) Complicated Midwifery Cases.

The Council accepts financial responsibility for maternity cases admitted to the County Hospital which are likely to prove difficult or complicated, and where patients are not in a position to make their own arrangements for payment.

The following table shows the number of patients so dealt with :

Number of cases admitted to hospital during the	1935	1934
year	21	18
Average duration of stay of each patient in hospital	17.4 days	18.2 days
Total sum paid by Borough in respect of such patients	£198 19 0	£135 16 0
Total sum recovered from patients	£77 2 6	£53 8 3

The sum given as having been received from patients includes £52 12s. 6d. received up to December 31st in respect of patients admitted during the year under review and £24 10s. 0d. in respect of arrears of payment of patients admitted in previous years.

(c) Maternal Mortality.

One death of a Borough resident occurred in connection with pregnancy or parturition.

The cause of death was certified as :—

Pelvic Peritonitis

Pelvic Abscess

Abortion.

The patient was 34 years of age, and the death occurred in connection with the fifth pregnancy. There is reason to believe that the abortion was self-induced. It was followed by death on account of the complications stated above after an interval of about 4 months.

(d) Schemes for Prevention of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity.

During the year certain additional arrangements, designed to prevent the occurrence of maternal mortality and morbidity, were brought into operation.

The more important of these, briefly stated, are as follows :—

1. Payment of fees of midwives to act as maternity nurses in suitable cases.
2. Payment of fees of home helps during confinement.
3. Provision of dentures for expectant and nursing mothers.
4. Birth Control information where this is necessary on grounds of health.

As a general principle the patient is required to repay only such part of the cost of the service as she is in a position to do, and is assessed individually where possible in accordance with income scales adopted by your Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The extent to which use was made of these services is shown under the following headings :—

Maternity Nurses.

No use was made of this scheme during the year.

Home Helps.

No use was made of this scheme during the year.

Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

Number of mothers attending	10
Number of attendances	16
Number of extractions	106
Number of general anaesthetics	13
Number of fillings	1
Number of scalings	1
Other operations	1
Dentures supplied	Nil
Fees paid for dentures to manufacturer*	...	£17	0	0	
Cost recovered from patients	13	9

* In respect of dentures to be supplied in 1936.

Birth Control.

The Council has made arrangements with voluntary centres at Cambridge and Northampton for information on birth control to be given in cases where it is necessary on the ground of health. So far no use has been made of these facilities.

8.—Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres.
(a) Premises and Attendances.

The following table shows the total attendances at the Centres for 1935, the figures for the preceding year being given in brackets for comparison.

ATTENDANCES OF CHILDREN.

	First Attendances.			Total Attendances including First Attendances.			Individual Children Attending.		
	Children below 1 year	Children aged 1—5	Total first attendances	Children below 1 year	Children aged 1—5	Total attendances	Children below 1 year	Children aged 1—5	Total
3, Brereton Road ...	228(234)	34(31)	262(265)	3684(3668)	3285(3472)	6969(7140)	353(348)	214(235)	567(583)
Community Hall ...	81(65)	49(45)	130(110)	1801 (901)	2564(1431)	4365(2332)	151 (95)	175(122)	326(217)
Total	309(299)	83(76)	392(375)	5485(4569)	5849(4903)	11334(9472)	504(443)	389(357)	893(800)

The figures show an increase in the total number of attendances, and also a change in the proportion attending the two Centres on account of the increasing number of children who now reside on the Corporation Housing Estates in comparison with other parts of the town.

In order to cope with the increasing population on the Corporation Housing Estates a new Centre is being built on the London Road Estate. This will not only enable the increasing child population to be more adequately supervised, but will also provide for better ante-natal and post-natal care which is at present difficult at Brereton Road on account of the distance from the Estates.

There has been no change since the previous year in the days on which sessions are held.

ANTE-NATAL ATTENDANCES.

The following table shows the number of attendances at the ante-natal clinic which is now held on Monday afternoons at 3, Brereton Road. The figures for 1934 are included for comparison in brackets.

First Attendances.	Re-Attendances.	Total.
91 (97)	316 (265)	407 (362)

The numbers attending for ante-natal examination are smaller than they should be and it will be impossible to arrange for really adequate ante-natal supervision before the new Centre on the London Road Estates is opened.

POST-NATAL ATTENDANCES.

It has not been possible to arrange for separate post-natal sessions, nor for patients to be seen at the already fully occupied ante-natal sessions. Certain selected patients only have been seen at the ordinary Infant Welfare Sessions. The number of these seen during the year under review was 10.

It will not be possible to arrange for proper post-natal care till the new Centre on the London Road Estates is opened.

(b) Distribution of Milk and Other Foods.

Dried milk and Virol are sold at cost price to parents attending the Centres. It is a condition of sale that the child for whom the milk is obtained should attend the Centres regularly. Fresh and dried milk are given free to those children whose parents are unable to afford it, and in whose case it is necessary on the grounds of health. Before any milk is so given, it must, except in case of emergency, be authorised by the Medical Officer of Health, and a member of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and all authorisations are reviewed by a sub-committee of this Committee.

Cod liver oil, cod liver oil and malt, cod liver oil and malt with Parrish's food, are also distributed free to those children in need of it from a special fund for this and other purposes.

The following tables show the amount of milk and other foods distributed free and sold, the figures for 1934 being given for comparison.

LIQUID MILK DISTRIBUTED FREE.

1935. 1934.
11,972 pints. 6,073 pints.

SALE OF OTHER FOODS.

Foods	Sold at full cost		Sold at half cost		Given free		Total amount of Food disposed of		Cash received from Sales					
	1935	1934	1935	1934	1935	1934	1935	1934	1935			1934		
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dried Milk	1717	1542	—	—	157	107	1874	1649	153	14	2	137	13	0
Virol ...	415½	374½	—	—	248½	83	664	457½	31	3	3	28	1	9

In addition to the foods given in the tables above there were distributed from the special fund 265 lbs. of cod liver oil and malt, 109 lbs. of cod liver oil and malt and Parrish's food, in addition to some cod liver oil.

(c) Ultra-Violet Treatment.

Sessions are held at 3, Brereton Road twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday mornings for this form of treatment.

The following table shows the extent of work undertaken :—

ATTENDANCES.

	1935	1934
Number of sessions held ...	64	70
Total number of attendances ...	139	278
Number of individual children treated ...	18	25

(d) REPORT BY DR. DORA MASON, M.A., M.B., B.S.,
Medical Officer in Charge of Centres.

Child Welfare Clinics.

Breast Feeding.

The following table shows that a large proportion of infants were established on artificial feeding before they attended the Centre.

FEEDING OF BABIES UNDER SIX MONTHS ON THEIR FIRST ATTENDANCE.

	Breast.	Mixed.	Artificial.	Total.
3, Brereton Road	127	21	65	213
Community Hall	45	9	21	75
Totals	172	30	86	288

Iron.

The addition to the diet (whether human or cow's milk) of iron and ammonium citrate in the case of premature, small or pale babies, twins, or babies of anaemic mothers, has continued to be attended with satisfactory results.

Dental Treatment.

While it is desired that all children with even slight dental defects should be sent to the dental clinic, this cannot always be achieved. One gains the impression, however, that education in this matter is slowly gaining ground.

Sunlight Clinic.

Total number treated	17
Results of Treatment :—						
Improved	7
Benefit doubtful	2
Failed to attend after one or two treatments	4
Treatment discontinued owing to excessive crying, etc.	4
						—
						17
						—

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Number attending for the first time	91 (96)
Expecting their first babies	42 (51)
Attended during previous pregnancy	8 (9)
Sent by :—			
1. Midwives	34 (42)
2. Doctors	5 (7)
3. Public Assistance Authorities	13 (13)
4. Health Visitors	1 (9)
5. Came on own initiative or by advice of friends	40 (25)
Failed to attend as long as required	6
Found not to be pregnant	1

The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1934.

Dental Treatment.

Expectant mothers with defective teeth are advised to attend the dental clinic, but there is a marked disinclination to undertake treatment during pregnancy and education in this respect seems likely to be slow. Nursing mothers show greater readiness to avail themselves of the facilities offered.

In addition to advice on the general hygiene of pregnancy (e.g. diet, rest, exercise, clothes) many patients received advice at the clinic for digestive troubles, mild toxæmia and other medical or gynaecological ailments requiring only domestic measures for their relief.

Free milk and Virol were given in necessitous cases.

Analysis of Patients Requiring Special Attention, 1935.

(a)	Malpresentation corrected	1
(b)	Investigation for Venereal Disease	5
(c)	Referred to private doctor	8
	1. For urinary infection	2
	2. For gynaecological reasons	1
	3. For other medical reasons	5
(d)	Referred to out-patients department of Bedford County Hospital	2
	1. For medical reasons	1
	2. For gynaecological reasons	1
(e)	Referred to X-ray department of Bedford County Hospital for X-ray of uterus	3
(f)	Referred to ante-natal clinic of Bedford County Hospital with a view to admission to the Maternity Wards	2
	1. For obstetric reasons	1
	2. For combined obstetric and medical reasons	1
(g)	Referred to the Dental Clinic	16
	1. Ante-natal	6
	2. Post-natal	10

Reports on 80 cases were received during the year.

End results :—

1.	Normal delivery (i.e. natural delivery resulting in a live full time birth without complication to mother or child)	71
						(including three abnormal presentations)
2.	Slight ante partum haemorrhage	1
3.	Forceps delivery	1
4.	Forceps delivery with stillborn infants	1
5.	Premature feeble infant (died after one month)	1
6.	Abnormality of infant	1
7.	Miscarriage	1
8.	Discharging eyes (infant)	3
						—
						80
						—

Cases 3-8 required medical help.

In no case was premature labour induced.

(Signed) DORA MASON.

9.—Health Visiting.

Work of Health Visitors.

The total number of births notified in the town after correction for residence of parents is 595. The number is arrived at after allowance has been made for outward transfers of births in cases where parents were resident outside the Borough and inward transfers of births where the birth took place outside the Borough though the parents were normally resident within the Borough. The following table shows the number of births occurring in institutions and those occurring in private practice, of doctors and midwives, both of the total notified before correction, and the number after correction for outward transfers only, the information required for the table not being available in the case of inward transfers.

Table of Live Births Notified.

				In Institutions.	In Private Practice.		
					By Doctors.	By Midwives.	
Total	243	...	186	...
After correction of outward							
transfers only	118	...	160	...
							313

The total number of births notified, namely 595, shows a slight increase over the number notified for the previous year (561). This increase is to be accounted for mainly by the fact that the year under review was the first complete year since the extension of the Borough boundary.

The following table shows the work carried out by the Health Visitors :—

				1935	1934
Total primary visits paid to infants	486	473
Total re-visits, under 1 year	2258	2018
Total re-visits, 1 to 5 years	4533	3868
Total number of ante-natal visits	91	107
Total number of special visits	169	408
Total number of useless visits, <i>e.g.</i>					
mother not at home	1344	1003

Visits are paid by the Health Visitors to all infants except where such visits are obviously unnecessary. The table shows that of the corrected total births notified, 81.7 per cent. were visited by the Health Visitors.

The general scheme of health visiting provides for the payment of a first visit as soon after the tenth day as possible, and at intervals thereafter till the age of 5 years. There are three Health Visitors on the staff, two of whom also undertake part of the duties of school

nurses. The time devoted to health visiting may be estimated as roughly equivalent to the time of $2\frac{3}{4}$ full time health visitors. In addition to their work in visiting, a large part of the time of the Health Visitors is taken up in attendance at the Centres and in work at the treatment clinics.

The following table is an indication of the success of the Health Visitors in encouraging breast feeding as distinct from artificial feeding. The figures relate to the visits paid at or soon after the attainment of the age of 6 months.

Breast and Artificial Feeding.

	Entirely breast fed.			Partially breast fed.			Artificially fed.	
	1935	1934		1935	1934		1935	1934
Regular attendants at Centres	70	54	...	9	14	...	75	53
Children visited at home not included in above ...	148	127	...	17	15	...	99	107
Totals ...	218	181	...	26	29	...	174	160

10.—Dental Treatment for Children below School Age.

(a) Scope of Work.

Children found by the Health Visitors during the course of their ordinary visiting or at the Centres to be in need of dental treatment are recommended to obtain this from the dental clinic. The time devoted to this work is approximately equivalent to one half-day per month.

The following table shows the amount of work carried out :—

Dental Treatment.

	Number treated.	
	1935	1934
Number of individual children attending ...	157	87
Number of attendances made by these children ...	208	106
Number of extractions ...	527	197
Number of fillings ...	21	17
Number of scalings ...	2	—
Number of general anaesthetics ...	115	10

The report of the Dental Officer in respect of children under school age and expectant and nursing mothers is subjoined.

(b) REPORT OF THE DENTAL OFFICER,**V. A. VASEY, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).**

The treatment of children below school age during the year 1935 has been of a similar nature to that of the preceding year.

There has been a little increase in conservative treatment, but not such an increase as one would wish to see. The mouths of most of the children inspected at the clinics show one or more septic teeth, and it is only when the child definitely complains of trouble that it is seen, and in most cases extraction is the only possible treatment.

Very rare and refreshing are cases where the parent brings the child just to see that everything is all right. One can, of course, appreciate there must be many a case where the parent cannot get the child to even come for inspection, without putting too much strain on its nervous system. Obviously in such a case one must wait until the child is older and things can be explained and understood by it.

In previous years parents were even loth to have their babies septic teeth extracted, but since the advent of a general anaesthetic there has been an increase in the number of children attending for this purpose. So far as this goes one must realise that it is better for these little ones to have clean mouths entirely free of septic matter, since such a condition must retard the progress of health and growth.

DENTAL TREATMENT FOR EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

During the year 1935 there has come into being a scheme whereby expectant and nursing mothers may have dental treatment, including the provision of dentures where necessary; but as this did not in practice start until late in the year there is nothing to report save that 10 mothers attended for this purpose and that no dentures were issued.

One must observe that this scheme is a very important one, and if taken advantage of will do much to improve the health of these mothers and also have a beneficial effect on their children.

My thanks are due to the Medical Officer of Health, the Health Visitors for their help in doing valuable propaganda work during their visits to parents, and to Dr. Brough and Nurse Dickson for their help in the general anaesthetic clinics.

(Signed) V. A. VASEY.

11.—Children Act 1908, Part I, Infant Life Protection, and Children and Young Persons Act 1932.

These Acts provide for the supervision of all children under nine who are put out to nurse apart from their parents for payment. The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors under the Acts.

Generally such children in Bedford are well cared for. In some cases the provisions as to the giving of notices have not been complied with, but on investigation the cause has usually been found to be ignorance. In one case during the year under review your Maternity and Child Welfare Committee authorised proceedings in a case where there had been failure to notify that a child had been received, after repeated warnings for previous failures. The prosecution followed in the present year and the foster-mother was fined £2. In this case the child has always been well cared for, and the offence was one of repeated neglect to comply with the law.

The following table shows the work done under the Acts :—

	1934.	1935.
Number of primary visits under Children Act, 1908	18	13
Number of re-visits	89	112
Number of special visits	11	22
Number of useless visits	19	15
Number of preliminary visits (before reception of child)	3	8

12.—Nursing Homes Registration Act 1927.

During the year under review there were six registered nursing homes, including three premises of larger type used for maternity and other cases, two small maternity homes and the Bedford and County Girls' Home.

The total number of beds in these homes is now 17 maternity beds and 39 other beds.

The smaller homes are inspected by your Inspector of Midwives at the same time that she carries out the inspection of midwives, while the larger homes are inspected from time to time by your Medical Officer of Health.

The Bedford County Hospital is exempt from the provisions of the Act.

III. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for much of the information under the following headings relating to water, drainage and sewerage, and scavenging, showing developments which have taken place during the year under review.

1.—Water.

The water has continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year.

(a) Bacteriological Results.

Bacteriological samples are taken weekly from the water after final treatment, either at the works or from a tap in the town, and monthly from each of the following points:—the river, the rising main, the old storage reservoir, one of the new storage reservoirs, the effluent from each of the filters taken separately, and the water consisting of the combined effluent from all the filters at the inlet to the chlorinating tank before final chlorination.

The results indicate that the water is of good quality. The following are typical results of analysis, which on the whole show little variation.

Date.		Number of colonies growing on gelatine in 3 days at 22 degrees C.	Number of colonies growing on agar in 24 hours at 37 degrees C.		Present in	B.Coli.	Absent in
	<i>River.</i>						
2/9/35	...	3456	...	194	...	1 c.c.	0.1 c.c.
	<i>Rising Main.</i>						
2/9/35	...	1408	...	233	...	0.1 c.c.	0.01 c.c.
	<i>Old Storage Reservoir.</i>						
9/9/35	...	480	...	59	...	10 c.c.	1 c.c.
	<i>New Storage Reservoir.</i>						
17/6/35	...	608	...	2	...	100 c.c.	50 c.c.
	<i>Filter No. 5.</i>						
9/9/35	...	40	...	12	...	—	100 c.c.
	<i>Inlet to Chlorinating Tank.</i>						
30/9/35	...	47	...	27	...	—	100 c.c.
	<i>Outlet from Chlorinating Tank.</i>						
16/9/35	...	56	...	27	...	—	100 c.c.

On all occasions *B. coli* was absent from 100 c.c. of the fully treated water. In all but one case it was absent from 100 c.c. of the water at the inlet to the tank before final chlorination. The total bacterial count on gelatine of the effluent from the individual filters (before chlorination) is almost always below 100. These facts indicate that chlorination is playing its part as a *second* (not as a first) line of defence. Before chlorination the water is, with rare exceptions, up to the highest possible drinking water standard, and chlorination is used in case of any possible breakdown in the preceding purification arrangements. The dose of chlorine during the year was kept at one part per million.

(b) Treatment for Prevention of Algal Growths.

The present arrangement of the treatment by potassium permanganate is proving very effective.

(c) Coagulation Treatment for the Removal of Suspended Impurities in the Raw Water Supplies.

This treatment has been continued as required, but in the near future the question of the application of the sodium aluminate will be reviewed.

(d) Extensions.

A considerable amount of new mains have been laid during the past year to replace the old and worn-out mains. It is hoped in a few years to have dealt similarly with the whole of the Borough.

A water main was extended to the hamlet of Old Fenlake during the year under review.

So far the water has been connected to two only out of the ten houses in this hamlet. In the remainder examinations of the well water proved satisfactory.

(e) Ball Hydrants.

The conversion of ball hydrants to valve hydrants has been continued throughout the year, but some little time must elapse before the whole system is converted. Systematic flushing of the mains is in operation.

(f) General.

Taken on the whole, the general condition of the water supply remained good during 1935, and one can look forward to 1936 with renewed confidence.

(g) New Supply to Bedford Rural District Council.

In connection with the proposed supply to the Bedford Rural District Council, a new covered service reservoir, three additional sand filters, a new screening plant and a length of main will be constructed during 1936.

Advantage will be taken of having a Contractor on the site to construct an additional filter to meet the increase of trade supplies.

(h) Water Supply to Houses.

The following table shows in summary form the water supply to houses not connected with the water mains and without internal water supply.

HOUSES SUPPLIED BY WELLS.

Situation.	No. of houses.	Present supply.	Remarks.
Old Borough before extension on April 1st, 1934	2	Wells.	In remote situation. One house now unoccupied.
Biddenham Ford End ...	6	One well common to six houses	Houses in remote situations. Examination of water satisfactory.
Old Fenlake	8	Six wells.	Main supply available, but owners have not yet connected.
Barker's Lane, Goldington	9	Five wells to nine houses.	Main supply will be taken up when sewers are installed.
Cricket Lane, Goldington	1	Well.	Main supply will be taken up when sewers are installed.

OTHER HOUSES WITHOUT INTERNAL WATER SUPPLY.

Situation.	No. of houses.	Water supply.	Remarks.
<i>Old Borough before extension.</i>			
15, 17, 19, Dane Street ...	3	Taps in yard	Cottages scheduled for demolition.
7 to 15, St. John's Place	5	3 taps in yard	
42 to 56, St. Loyes Street	8	3 taps in yard	
<i>Area added on April 1st, 1934.</i>			
Mainly in Goldington ...	62		Supplied from 23 stand pipes. Internal supply will be installed when sewerage is available.

Apart from the exceptions given in the table all houses have internal water supply.

(i) Rainfall.

The following table shows the rainfall, which after several years of drought was up to the average.

					Inches.
January	0.71
February	1.79
March	0.43
April	2.76
May	1.11
June	1.93
July	0.63
August	1.70
September	4.30
October	2.22
November	3.63
December	1.67
Total					22.88

(j) Swimming Baths and Pools.

A commencement was made on the reconstruction of Newnham Baths. More satisfactory sanitary arrangements are being carried out, and provision made for a continuous flow of water through the pool.

A covered-in bath for the Boys' Modern School was completed during the year.

In this bath purification is by continuous filtration and chlorination.

2.—Drainage and Sewerage.

A commencement was made on the construction of the relief sewer from Cardington Road to Queens Park and Midland Road. Work also commenced on the sewers to be laid for the drainage of Goldington, Eastcotts and Biddenham areas.

Regular flushing and inspection of sewers has been carried out, and defective lengths made good or re-laid where necessary.

3.—Rivers and Streams.

Any pollution in the river has been traced to its source and, where possible, action has been taken to prevent its recurrence, in some cases, by the admittance of waste into foul sewers.

4.—Closet Accommodation.

No conversions from conservancy systems were completed in the added areas during the year under review.

All houses in the Borough have now separate closet accommodation, with the exception of 13 houses (St. John's Place and St. Loyes Street) of the type of Almshouses where there are 7 closets for the total number of houses.

Four additional water closets were provided in Richbell Cottages in order to provide each house with a separate closet.

One privy midden and three pail closets were abolished in consequence of the demolition of four houses. During the year the work of conversion of the pail closets at Newnham Baths was begun, but not completed.

A Ministry of Health enquiry was held in December 1935 with regard to the conversion of pail closets, also of the connection to the public sewer of such premises as are provided with water closets and drains connected to cesspools, and in March 1936 the proposed schemes received the approval of the Ministry.

When the scheme is completed nearly all pail closets in the Borough will be replaced by water closets. In certain cases this will not be undertaken on account of remoteness of situation or the fact that houses provided with pail closets are scheduled for demolition. The following table gives a list of situations where such conversions are not reasonably practicable and the causes.

Pail Closets where Conversion will not be Undertaken.

District.	Number of Pail Closets.	Remarks.
Old Borough before extension	16	In remote situation. Nine in connection with works premises.
Biddenham Ford End	6	Remote situation.
Cardington	2	Remote situation.
Old Fenlake	8	Remote situation.
Clapham	8	Four scheduled for demolition. In remaining four sewer connections impracticable.
Kimbolton Road ...	4	Remote situation.
Newnham	3	Remote situation.
Putnoe Street ...	3	Remote situation.
The Green, Gold- ington	4	Scheduled for demolition.

5.—Public Cleansing.

The total amount of refuse dealt with at the Destructor during the year was 11,345 tons. Of this, 10,852 tons was house refuse and 493 tons trade refuse.

Pail closets from the houses in Goldington and Eastcotts Districts have been periodically emptied and cleansed during the year.

6.—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

For details of the sanitary inspection of the area, including work under the Public Health and Housing Acts, in connection with Houses let-in-Lodgings, Common Lodging Houses, Factory and Workshops Act and other matters, reference is made to the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector at the end of this report.

7.—Smoke Abatement.

There are now within the whole of the Borough a total of 33 chimneys, 5 of which are not in regular use, one chimney having been demolished during the year.

The chimneys are maintained under constant observation, and if any undue emission is noted a recorded observation is made; this course was found necessary in 3 instances only, when contravention of byelaws was obtained in 1 instance.

The facts were reported to the management of the firm concerned, who in consequence gave attention to this matter, with the result that subsequent observation of the same chimney showed a marked improvement.

The Smoke Abatement Byelaws, which limit the amount of black smoke to 2 minutes in any half-hour, were also made applicable to the added areas on March 1st, 1936.

8.—Schools.

No changes have taken place in the sanitary condition of the schools since the date of my last report. Progress has, however, been made in the scheme for converting into water closets of modern type the trough closets still existing at some of the schools. At the Bedford School the obsolete trough closets have now been replaced by closets of recent type.

A new school is under construction on the London Road to serve the needs of the new Housing Estates.

In no case was school closure found necessary on account of infectious disease. In the elementary schools individual scholars were excluded in accordance with the Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, 1927.

9.—Shops Act, 1934.

This Act came into operation on the 30th December, 1934, the provisions under the control of the Sanitary Department being those relating to the health and comfort of workers employed in shops and

warehouses as outlined in Section 10 of the Act, which deals with lighting, ventilation and temperature of shops, washing facilities, sanitary conveniences, and suitable accommodation for partaking of meals.

The duties involved in securing compliance with this Section of the Act, in view of the number and varying nature of the premises, especially where both sexes are employed, entailed the devotion of a considerable amount of time to initial inspection of premises and subsequent action in connection with contraventions and the supervision of works carried out to meet the requirements of the Act.

All the shops and warehouses in the Borough¹ affected by the Act were visited, and a total of 1,022 inspections were made.

It may be noted that there is roughly one shop to every 45 persons normally resident in the Borough.

In the course of these visits opportunity was also taken to direct attention to other statutory requirements.

A total of 86 W.C.'s have been installed in order to comply with the Act. Exemptions in accordance with the provision of the Act were granted in four instances only.

It was found that in general the conditions with regard to lighting, ventilation and temperature of shops were suitable and adequate, and in only a few instances was it found necessary to take action to secure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

At a number of the premises the washing facilities and accommodation for taking of meals were not regarded as sufficient, and in 57 instances suitable facilities were provided.

From time to time further action will be required under this Act, particularly in respect of newly established businesses, and in view of the possibility of changes of staff, especially where female labour is introduced, as well as to ensure that suitable temperature in shops is maintained.

Whenever plans for new shop premises are deposited for approval to the Authority, these are referred to this Department for observation as to requirements under the Shops Act.

IV. Housing.

1.—Statistical Table.

The following table gives the statistics of housing work undertaken during the year under review :—

1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—	
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1096
	(b) Number of inspections, including reinspections, made for the purpose	6470
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	613
	(b) Number of inspections, including reinspections, made for the purpose	4838
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	927
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	567
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
	(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
--	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
---	--

(a) By owners	—
---------------	--------	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	—
---	-----	---

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
---	--------	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
--	--------	---

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
--	--------	---

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
---	--------	---

2.—Observations on Statistics.

The 1096 houses inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts may be classified as follows :—

I.—Houses inspected under Housing Acts.

(i) Reasonably capable of repair	517
(ii) Not requiring repairs	86
(iii) Totally unfit for human habitation	...	10
		— 613

II.—Houses inspected under Public Health Acts.

(i) Minor defects	410
(ii) Not requiring repairs	73
		— 483

Grand total	1096
-------------	--------	------

Of the 517 houses included in I. (i) above, 299 have been repaired and in the case of the remaining 218 the necessary works have not yet been carried out, but should be or have been completed during the early part of the current year.

In the case of the 410 houses included in II. (i) above, all the notices were complied with at the end of the year under review.

3.—Housing Conditions.

(a) General Summary.

The following table gives a classified list of the estimated number of houses of different sizes at the end of the year under review. The estimation is based on the Census figures of 1931, together with information of additions or demolitions.

Table of Estimated Number of Houuses, December 31st, 1935.

Number of Rooms.	Census, 26th April, 1931.	Houses built within the old Borough 26th April, 1931, to 31st March, 1934.	Houses in Added Areas on 1st April, 1934.	Houses built in Extended Area 1st April, 1934, to 31st December, 1935.	Houses demolished or no longer used as dwelling houses. From 26th April, 1931 to 31st December, 1935.	Total houses existing at Census in old Borough <i>plus</i> those built since and those since incorporated <i>minus</i> those demolished.
1	6	—	—	—	—	6
2	56	—	—	—	11	45
3	230	—	7	—	31	206
4	1,069	2	187	9	27	1,240
5	2,625	19	588	320	24	3,528
6-8	5,449	320	207	51	14	6,013
9 or more	1,220	—	35	—	8	1,247
Totals	10,655	341	1,024	380	115	12,285
Miscellaneous institutions housing non-private families - -						206

In explanation of this table it may be said that “rooms” include bedrooms, living rooms and kitchens, but do not include such rooms as shop rooms, bathrooms, or sculleries.

The following table shows the number of houses on the Corporation Housing Estates.

TYPE OF HOUSE.	Number of houses of each type.	Number of rooms in each type.	No. of houses containing number of rooms shown.
Parlour type with 4 bedrooms	4	6	4
Parlour type with 3 bedrooms	210	5	210
Non-parlour type with 3 bedrooms	330*	4 }	410
Flats, non-parlour with 3 bedrooms	80	4 }	
Non-parlour type with 2 bedrooms	96	3 }	200
Flats, non-parlour with 2 bedrooms	104	3 }	
Total ...			824

* Includes 12 houses in Goldington Village taken over from Bedford Rural District.

The remainder of the houses contained in the table based on the Census figures, after the subtraction of the houses on the Corporation Housing Estates, consist, so far as those houses with 4 or 5 rooms or less are concerned, almost entirely of pre-war houses in the older parts of the town.

In compiling tables of the number of houses with a given number of rooms, some doubt must always exist as to the exact interpretation of the term "rooms," but the Registrar-General's definition, which is substantially that of the Housing Act, 1935, has been adhered to so far as possible.

The following table shows the number of old houses of smaller type based on estimates made in this Department, the discrepancy between this table and that based on the Census returns being due to the difficulty of interpretation indicated.

Old Houses of Smaller Type.

TYPE OF HOUSE.	Total (approximate).
2-roomed (living-room and bedroom)	14
3-roomed (living-room and two bedrooms)	22
4 rooms without additional scullery (two rooms on ground floor and two upstairs)	446
4 rooms as above, but with additional scullery ...	659

The remainder of the houses contain from five rooms upwards.

4.—Housing Act, 1930.

(a) Houses Incapable of Repair at Reasonable Cost.

Formal representation was made in respect of 3 houses; of these 1 has already been demolished, while the remaining 2 cottages will be demolished when the occupants have been suitably re-housed.

In addition, 14 houses of a low standard were demolished by arrangement without having recourse to formal action.

The two unfit cottages in Cricket Lane, Goldington, in respect of which "Closing Orders" were made in 1930 by the Beds. Rural District Council, and which were vacated in 1934, have now been demolished.

The 3 cottages—27, 29 and 31, Allhallows Lane—which were purchased by the Corporation in 1934, were also demolished during the year.

(b) Review of Housing Programme, 1930.

In the five years' programme prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health in 1931, it was estimated that 73 houses in the old Borough would be required to be demolished.

The position at the end of 1935 is as follows :—

Demolished.	Reinstated.	To be dealt with.
56	15	2

The 2 houses yet to be dealt with, namely 8 and 10, Castle Lane, are to be vacated early in 1936, and when this is effected the owner is prepared to give an undertaking not to re-let for human habitation, but proposes to convert the premises so as to be suitable for business purposes.

Since the formulation of the 1931 programme, in addition to the estimated 73 houses to be dealt with formally, a further 21 houses in the old Borough of a low standard have been or are to be dealt with from 1931 to the end of the year 1935, as follows :—

Demolished.	Closed.	To be dealt with.
17	2	2

Since extension of the Borough in April 1934, up to the end of 1935, in the added areas a total of 5 houses have been demolished, 1 house by formal action and 4 informally.

The following table shows in detail the action taken with respect to individual houses during the years 1931-1935 :—

Table showing Unfit Houses Demolished or closed during the years 1931 to 1935.

Year.	Situation.	No. of Houses	No. of Occupants	Date of Representa- tion.	Date of Demolition Order.	Remarks.
1931	4, London Road	1	5	24-2-31	Not made	Demolished, February, 1934.
	2a, St. John's Place	1	4	24-3-31	1-6-31	Demolished, June, 1931.
	48, 50, Castle Hill	2	12	24-2-31	Not made	Demolished, April, 1933.
	R/o 9, St. Cuthbert's Street	1	5	1-5-31	Not made	Outhouse—undertaking accepted that premises be not used for habitation.
	3, 4, Ram Yard	2	Nil	9-11-31	21-11-31	Demolished, 3-12-31.
1932	1, Bell Court	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Derelict and unoccupied dwelling—demolished by arrangement, 21-11-31.
	9 to 14, St. Cuthbert's Square	6	17	6-9-32	15-12-32	Demolished, 31-3-33.
	3 to 8, St. Cuthbert's Square	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Derelict and unoccupied cottages—demolished, April, [1933.
	52 to 62, Chandos Street ...	6	24	6-9-32	15-12-32	Demolished, 25-3-33.
	19, 20, Tavistock Place ...	2	13	6-9-32	15-12-32	Demolished, 15-4-33.
	29, Cobden Street	1	3	6-9-32	H'se closed	Demolished, 23-12-33.
	7, Brace Street	1	6	6-9-32	Not made	House vacated—rendered fit. Re-let, 2 occupants only, [1-8-33.
	81 to 87, Pilcroft Street ...	4	22	6-9-32	10-1-33	Demolished, 13-5-33.
	40, Newnham Street	1	4	Nil	Nil	Dangerous building of low standard—demolished, [31-12-32.
	1 to 7, Castle Hill Cottages ...	7	27	27-2-33	1-6-33	Demolished, 20-11-33.
	1, 2, Ram Yard	2	23	27-2-33	1-6-33	Demolished, 20-11-33.
	27 to 31, All Hallows Lane ...	3	3	1-5-33	6-7-33	Houses vacated, purchased by the Corporation, demolished 25-5-35.
1933	34, 36, All Hallows Lane ...	2	7	Nil	Nil	Demolished, June, 1933.
	29, 31, Newnham Street ...	2	4	1-5-33	6-7-33	Demolished, 28-6-34.
	22, Cauldwell Street	1	4	Nil	Nil	Cost of repairs prohibitive. Owner gave undertaking to demolish—demolished, 1-2-34.
	17, St. John's Street	1	4	3-7-33	7-11-33	Demolished, 26-5-34.
	1, Roise Street	1	5	15-9-33	Nil	Demolished, 30-3-34.
	5 to 11, Dane Street	4	13	Nil	Nil	Corporation property, houses of low standard. Demolished for clearance site for erecting Public Building, 6-5-33.

Table showing Unfit Houses Demolished or closed during the years 1931 to 1935—continued.

Year.	Situation.	No. of Houses	No. of Occupants	Date of Representation.	Date of Demolition Order.	Remarks.
1934	4, 6, St. Cuthbert's Street ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Derelict and unoccupied—voluntarily demolished, [28-4-34.
	1 to 6, Butcher's Yard ...	6	10	28-2-34	7-6-34	Demolished, 31-12-34.
	9, Mill Street ...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Derelict and unoccupied—voluntarily demolished, [29-3-34.
	Cottage, Cox's Pits ...	1	3	22-9-34	Nil	Voluntarily demolished, 28-2-35.
	2, Duck Mill Lane ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	House closed, 12-2-34.
	House, Cardington Mill ...	1	6	Nil	Nil	Corporation property, demolished, 21-7-34.
	Thatched Cottages, Cricket Lane, Goldington ...	2	9	Nil	Nil	Closing orders made by Bedford Rural District Council in May, 1930; vacated 31-8-34; demolished 31-12-35.
	7, 9, Kempston Road ...	2	5	24-1-35	1-6-35	Demolished 29-5-36.
	Dairy Cottage, Goldington Green ...	1	2	24-1-35	17-5-35	Demolished 1-11-35.
	6, 12, 14, Chandos Street ...	3	4	Nil	Nil	Houses purchased by the Corporation and demolished as part of an improvement scheme, 1-5-35.
	21, 23, Dane Street ...	2	6	Nil	Nil	Demolished 8-6-35.
	33, 35, Allhallows Lane ...	2	3	Nil	Nil	Demolished 8-6-35.
1935	Cottage, Cricket Lane ...	1	2	Nil	Nil	Demolished 31-12-35.

(c) Houses Capable of Repair at a Reasonable Cost.

The following table shows the number of houses inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, in the year under review and the preceding six years in accordance with the programme submitted annually to your Public Health and Housing Committee.

1929	114
1930	178
1931	366
1932	618
1933	762
1934	1005
1935	603
					<hr/>
Total	3646
					<hr/>

The proposed scheme with regard to the Chandos Street Area was completed in the early part of the year. The properties which consisted of 18 cottages, were purchased by the Corporation. Three of the cottages were demolished. Two of these were of the "back-to-back" type, and their demolition increased the amount of light and free air space to six of the remaining cottages; one other cottage was demolished, thus making possible free access to the rear of seven other cottages.

Extensive structural improvements and redecoration were carried out, together with the provision of cooking ranges of modern type, electric light and other conveniences, including additional W.C.'s to afford separate accommodation to each house.

The Corporation are now utilising these cottages for the accommodation of aged couples.

For further details of the work of inspection under the Housing Acts reference is made to the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The following table shows the situation of the houses inspected during the year 1935.

Houses Capable of Repair at a Reasonable Cost.

Name of Street	No. of houses inspected.	No. of houses at which defects were found.	No. of houses found to be in order.
Adelaide Square ...	1	1	—
Beaconsfield Street ...	39	28	11
Castle Lane ...	4	4	—
Cauldwell Street ...	1	1	—
Coventry Road ...	111	109	2
Derwent Place ...	9	5	4
Eastville Road ...	17	17	—
Edward Road ...	58	46	12
Ford End Road ...	10	10	—
Foster Hill Road ...	1	1	—
Garfield Street ...	41	35	6
George Street ...	11	11	—
Great Butts Street ...	2	2	—
Gwyn Street ...	1	1	—
Howbury Street ...	145	139	6
Marlborough Road ...	2	2	—
Melbourne Street ...	1	1	—
Newnham Street ...	1	1	—
Palmerston Street ...	45	40	5
Pembroke Street ...	1	1	—
Pilcroft Street ...	2	2	—
Ridgmount Street ...	18	5	13
St. Leonard's Avenue ...	2	2	—
Sandhurst Place ...	24	16	8
Sandhurst Road ...	43	24	19
Stanley Street ...	1	1	—
Victoria Road ...	2	2	—
Westbourne Road ...	9	9	—
York Street ...	1	1	—
Totals ...	603	517	86

5.—Overcrowding.

By the passing of the Housing Act, 1935, the position with regard to overcrowding was essentially altered and a new legal standard provided. The work of survey under this Act was carried out in 1936, and therefore will not be discussed in this report.

During the year under review the old Manchester Standard was still used in this Department, but will be no longer used, since it will be replaced by the standard of the Housing Act.

The following table shows the position in summary form with regard to houses overcrowded (on the Manchester Standard) during the year under review :—

Cases outstanding at end of 1934	50
New cases discovered during 1935	7
				—
Total	57
				—
Cases abated during 1935	9
				—
Cases remaining at end of 1935	48
				—

6.—Rent Restriction Acts.

No applications have been received for the granting of any Certificates under the provisions of the above-named Acts.

From time to time the staff have been consulted by tenants, and where considered necessary informal action has been taken under the Housing Acts.

7.—Municipal Housing Estates.

No houses were built during the year under Municipal Housing Schemes. At the present time plans have been approved for the construction of 168 houses. The following table has been furnished by the Housing Manager, and shows the present position with regard to applicants for municipal houses.

Summary of Applications for Houses on the Corporation Estates as at December 31st, 1935.

	December 1935.	Regarded as urgent.
1. <i>Applicants with families in rooms—</i>		
(a) In Bedford	72	72
(b) Out of area, working in Bedford	5	5
(c) Ditto, not working in Bedford	3	—
2. <i>Householders with families—</i>		
(a) In Bedford	101	*40
(b) Out of area, working in Bedford	59	30
(c) Ditto, not working in Bedford	7	—
3. <i>Overcrowded families—</i>		
In houses and flats in Bedford	11	11
4. <i>Applicants with families in Registered Houses let in Lodgings</i>	12	12
5. <i>Applicants without children</i>	66	—
6. <i>Single Persons</i>	18	—

*.Estimated number of applicants paying excessive rents.

	December 1935.	Regarded as urgent.
Houses required to rehouse tenants of premises in Allhallows Lane and Castle Lane (to be demolished)	—	24
Total ...	354	194

As compared with the end of 1934 the total number of applicants was 354 in comparison with 386, and of applicants regarded as urgent 194 in comparison with 168.

8. Progress of Building since the War.

The following table shows the progress of building since the war :—

Number of Houses built since the War to 31st December, 1935.

Year.	Subsidy Private Enterprise.	Subsidy Local Authority.	Private Enterprise No Grant.	Conversions etc.	Total per year.
1919 ...	—	—	—	—	—
1920 ...	1	—	—	—	1
1921 ...	1	84	3	—	88
1922 ...	6	114	3	—	123
1923 ...	—	2	24	—	26
1924 ...	25	—	47*	—	72
1925 ...	63	—	19	—	82
1926 ...	51	40	27	—	118
1927 ...	36	32	30*	—	98
1928 ...	36	—	50*	—	86
1929 ...	23	76	50	—	149
1930 ...	—	16	70	—	86
1931 ...	—	116	63	1	180
1932 ...	—	42†	57	2	101
1933 ...	—	190‡	110	6	306
1934¶	—	100	159	—	259
1935 ...	—	—	336	—	336
Totals ...	242	812	1048	9	2111

* These figures each include a public house.

† These 42 houses were built outside the then existing Borough boundary by the Borough Council.

‡ Includes 168 houses built outside the then existing Borough boundary by the Borough Council.

¶ Borough boundary extended on April 1st, 1934. In the added areas, apart from houses built by the Borough Council, approximately 165 houses were built since the Census, 1931, till April 1st, 1934, 12 by the Rural District Council, the remainder by private enterprise, with or without subsidy.

V. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1.—Milk.

(a) Sources of Supply.

The amount of milk produced within the Borough is comparatively small, there being only one large farm, at which Certified Milk is produced, and two other cowsheds where a small quantity of ordinary milk is produced.

Apart from this the main supply of milk is from outlying farms in the neighbourhood.

(b) Registration of Purveyors of Milk and Dairy Premises.

The following table shows the number of purveyors and premises on the register at the end of the year :—

	Registered Persons.	Registered Premises.
Cowkeepers within the Borough	3	3
Purveyors, other than cowkeepers with registered premises in the Borough ...	66	62
Purveyors with registered premises outside the Borough	31	—
Purveyors dealing with bottled milk only	65	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	165	65
	<hr/>	<hr/>

In reference to the table given above it may be said in explanation that registration of premises is not required in the case of those purveyors who deal in bottled milk only.

(c) Inspection of Farms and Dairies.

At the beginning of the year under review there were five premises at which milk was being produced. On account of building operations one cowshed has been dispensed with, and one producer has given up business.

Of the three remaining cowsheds, one is of modern construction, housing some 30 cows, at which certified milk is produced, the remaining two, at which there are some six cows, are not of modern type, but a fairly reasonable standard of cleanliness is adhered to,

though in view of building developments in this area in the near future there is every probability that these cowsheds will cease to exist.

The retail distributors' premises within the Borough are frequently visited, and the standard of cleanliness maintained may be regarded as satisfactory.

At a number of premises steam sterilisation was already being relied upon, and during the year this means of sterilisation has been installed at three other premises.

Cold storage plant has been installed in five instances. Two newly constructed dairy premises have been established, where modern requirements were insisted upon and effected, and at six other premises various structural improvements have been carried out.

Supervision is maintained upon the vehicles and utensils used in the conveyance and distribution of milk for the purpose of ensuring necessary cleanliness.

During the year one successful prosecution was taken for the filling of bottles with milk in the street.

For the purpose of ascertaining the degree of efficiency of the methods adopted for the cleansing of milk bottles, washed bottles were procured at random from various dairies and tested for sterility in the Laboratory of the Department.

The following table shows results of such tests.

Method of Washing				Bottles Tested.	Results obtained	
					Sterile.	Non-Sterile.
Washing Machine	4	1	3
Hand Washed	2	—	2

(d) Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

A total of 75 samples, not including samples of specially designated milk, to be referred to later, were submitted to the School of Agriculture, Cambridge, for bacteriological examination.

These samples were taken from milk from different sources as indicated in the table :—

Source of Supply.				No. of samples.
Milk taken at time of production at cowshed	2
Milk obtained from producers on delivery to retailers				23
Milk as supplied to elementary schools	30
Milk taken at various stages from pasteurisation plants				11
Samples taken from retailers	9
				—
Total	75
				—

The following tables show in summary form the results of the bacteriological examination of milk.

Samples taken at time of production.

Producer.	Individual bacterial count per c.c.	B. Coli content.				
		Absent in 1 c.c.	Present in			
			1 c.c.	1/10	1/100	1/1000
No. 1	192,000					+
No. 2	288,000					+
Average bacterial count	240,000					2

Samples taken from individual farmers on delivery to retailers.

Range of General Bacterial Counts.	No. of samples within limits of previous column.	B. Coli content.				
		Absent in 1 c.c.	1 c.c.	Present in 1/10	1/100	1/1000
300,000 to 200,000	2	2	..
* 200,000 to 100,000	3	1	1	1
100,000 to 50,000	1	...	1	
50,000 to 30,000	2	1	...	1
Below 30,000	15	7	2	5	1	...
Totals	23	9	4	7	3	...

Average bacterial count of the 23 samples—50,200 per c.c.

* Grade A Standard—not more than 200,000 per c.c.

Samples taken on Delivery to Schools.

Class of Milk.	No. of Samples.	Average bac-terial count.	Range of bac-terial count.	B. Coli content.				
				Absent in 1 c.c.	Present in 1 c.c.	1/10	1/100	1/1000
Grade A Milk	4	61,550 bacteria per c.c.	11,200 to 128,000 per c.c.	2	1	1
Ordinary Milk	26	160,350 bacteria per c.c.	17,600 to 340,000 per c.c.	4	10	12

Samples taken from individual retailers.

Range of General Bacterial Counts.	No. of samples within limits of previous column.	B. Coli content.				
		Absent in 1 c.c.	Present in 1 c.c.	1/10	1/100	1/1000
300,000 to 200,000	1	1
* 200,000 to 100,000	1	1
100,000 to 50,000	2	2
50,000 to 30,000	1	1
Below 30,000	4	2	1	...	1	...
Totals	9	5	1	2	1	...

Average bacterial count of the 9 samples :—69,622 per c.c.

* Grade A Standard—not more than 200,000 per c.c.

Samples taken in process of pasteurisation.

Series No.	Source of Samples.	Bacterial Count per c.c.	B. coli content.				
			Absent in 1 c.c.	Present in 1 c.c.	1/10	1/100	1/1000
No. 1	Receiving Tank	160,000				+	
	Exit of holder	3,600	+				
	Entrance to cooler	12,000	+				
	Exit of cooler	7,200			+		
	Exit of bottling machine	9,600					+
No. 2	Receiving tank	192,000					+
	Entrance to holder	88,000		+			
	Exit of holder	112,000	+				
	Entrance to cooler	11,600	+				
	Exit of cooler	9,200		+			
	Bottling machine	32,800			+		

The following remarks may be made on the tables just given. As a guide to the interpretation it may be said that the standard of Grade A milk is not more than 200,000 bacteria per c.c. and absence of *b. coli* in 1/100 c.c. The following statement shows the number of samples of raw milk which attained the standard in one or both respects.

Comparison of Raw Milks with Grade A Standard.

Source of Samples.	No. of Samples.	Bacterial Counts.		B. Coll content.		Both Standards.	
		Attained.	Failed to attain.	Attained.	Failed to attain.	Attained.	Failed to attain.
Samples taken time of production.	2	1	1	—	2	—	2
On delivery to retailer—							
Grade A	8	6	2	6	2	6	2
Ordinary Milk	15	15	—	14	1	14	1
Schools—							
Raw Milk.	26	17	9	4	22	3	23
Grade A	4	4	—	2	2	2	2
Samples from individual retailers	9	8	1	8	1	7	2

In comment on this table it may be said that the standard of Grade A milk is not a high one, and even ordinary milk should with reasonably satisfactory methods attain this standard.

The 23 samples taken from various producers on delivery to retailers in the town may be regarded as fairly satisfactory. Of the samples of milk taken as delivered to schools, the results of the samples taken show need for improvement.

As to the results obtained from the samples taken in the two series of the process of pasteurisation, while the resultant bacterial count is well below the 100,000 bacteria per c.c. prescribed by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, for this grade of milk, the evidence of bacillus coli in the ultimate product, though not in actual contradiction of the Order, cannot be regarded as a satisfactory feature, and indicates recontamination.

The nine samples of milk taken at random from various retailers in the town may be regarded as being satisfactory, both from the point of view of bacterial count and the content of bacillus coli.

(e) Examination of Milk for Tuberculosis.

A total of 37 samples each obtained from individual producers were submitted for microscopical and biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

All the samples were reported upon as not containing tubercle bacilli.

(f) Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

The various grades of milk under the above named Order at present distributed within the Borough are as follows :—

- (a) Certified
- (b) Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)
- (c) Grade A
- (d) Pasteurised

The following table gives the licences granted by the Borough Council :—

Type of Licence.	Number.
Certified — Retailers	3
Grade A — Bottling Establishments ...	4
Grade A — Retailers	7
Grade A — Supplementary	2
Pasteurisation Plants	2
Pasteurisation — Retail	1

In addition to distributors of specially licenced milk mentioned in the table just given, the following table gives a list of those distributors who retail milk within the Borough boundary but are licenced by other Authorities.

Type of milk sold	No. of retailers.	Remarks.
Certified	1	Licenced by Ministry of Health.
Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)		
Grade A	5	Licenced by Bedfordshire County Council.

The following table shows the average daily amount of the various designated milks distributed during the early part of the present year, together with the corresponding figures for the previous year.

	1935.	1936.
Certified	35 galls. ...	56½ galls.
Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)	30 „ ...	— „
Grade A	207 „ ...	418½ „
Pasteurised	871½ „ ...	926 „

Twelve samples of Certified Milk were procured in accordance with the schedule of sampling of the Ministry of Health, and submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these there were five samples adversely reported upon as not complying with the prescribed standard. The producer concerned was duly notified in each case.

For the purpose of ascertaining whether the pasteurised milk distributed from the two licensed premises in the Borough was of requisite standard a total of 30 samples were submitted for examination, and of these four samples were adversely reported upon.

Of the samples taken from No. 1 plant, only one sample, with a count of 180,000 per c.c., was adversely reported upon, the average count of the samples being 28,062 per c.c.

Of the samples taken from No. 2 plant, three samples, with an average bacterial count of 276,000 per c.c., were adversely reported upon, the average count of 14 samples submitted being 72,820 per c.c.

A total of 17 samples of Grade A milk and a sample of Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) were procured from various distributors and submitted for examination. The bacteriologist reported upon the sample of Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) and four of the samples of Grade A as not attaining to the requisite standard.

2.—Meat and Other Foods.

(a) Meat.

Especial attention is given to the meat supply within the Borough. Systematic visits to slaughterhouses are made during times of regular slaughter on at least three days during the week, and at such other times as occasion requires by reason of "Occasional" or "Emergency" slaughtering.

This is carried out for ensuring, as far as practicable, that all animals slaughtered within the Borough are systematically inspected before being exposed for sale.

In addition, constant visits are made to the meat shops and stalls in the town for the purpose of maintaining supervision of the supplies of imported meat and of home-killed meat not slaughtered within the Borough.

Attention is also given to ensure that meat is appropriately labelled as required by the Imported Food Order.

Generally speaking, the whole of the meat purveyed in the town is of a high standard of quality, and the percentage of diseased meat discovered in the course of inspections made may be regarded as comparatively low.

There was no occasion during the year to make any "formal seizure," the judgement of the Inspector usually being readily agreed to and voluntary surrender made in respect of any diseased or unsound meat.

The number of carcasses and offals inspected in the course of systematic visits of inspection to the slaughterhouses and other meat shops in the Borough during the year was as follows:—

Cattle	1,467
Sheep	5,013
Pigs	7,032
					<hr/>
		Total	13,512

The following is a classified table showing the various kinds of meat condemned, reasons for condemnation, and the amounts destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

Home Killed Meat.

Reason for Condemnation.	No. of Animals affected	Amounts Condemned.				
		Whole carcase and offal.	Weight. lbs.	Part carcase and offal.	Weight. lbs.	Total amount. lbs.
Tuberculosis	Beasts ... 13	3	920	10	655	1575
	Pigs ... 110	5	882	105	503	1385
	—					—
	Total ... 123				Total	2960
Other Diseases	Beasts ... 13	—	—	13	293	293
	Sheep ... 11	3	132	8	117	249
	Pigs ... 23	6	740	17	461	1201
	—					—
	Total ... 47				Total	1743
Injury	Beasts ... 2	—	—	2	94	94
	Sheep ... 1	1	30	—	—	30
	Pigs ... 4	—	—	4	77	77
	—					—
	Total ... 7				Total	201
	Total ... 177				Total	4904

Imported Meat.

Unsound	Beef	833
	Mutton	181
	Total							1014
Total Amount of Home and Imported Meat								5918

(b) Other Foods.

Apart from slaughterhouses and meat shops, supervision of other types of food premises is also made to ensure a satisfactory standard of the commodities sold; frequent requests are also received from shopkeepers for an inspection to be made of any foods of doubtful quality, and voluntary surrender of the goods is readily made if the Inspector considers this necessary.

The following table gives a summary of the various foodstuffs which have been destroyed as a result of such action.

Commodity.	Ordinary.	Tinned.	Total.
Fish	56 lbs. ...	53 lbs. ...	109 lbs.
Fruit	720 lbs. ...	506 lbs. ...	1226 lbs.
Vegetables	100 lbs. ...	18 lbs. ...	118 lbs.
Poultry and Game	112 lbs. ...	2 lbs. ...	114 lbs.
Prepared Meats	nil ...	136 lbs. ...	136 lbs.
Prepared Hams	nil ...	51 lbs. ...	51 lbs.
Cheese (Various)	20 lbs. ...	nil ...	20 lbs.
Milk	nil ...	19 lbs. ...	19 lbs.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	1008 lbs. ...	785 lbs. ...	1793 lbs.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

All diseased and unsound meat and other foods are officially disposed of at the Refuse Destructor Works.

3.—Food Premises.**(a) General Inspection.**

The following table shows the various classes of premises where food is prepared and the number of visits paid to each during the year :—

Class of Premises.	No. of Premises.	No. of Inspections.
Meat Shops	57 ...	543
Fish Shops and Fish-frying Premises	24 ...	340
Dairy Premises	62 ...	390
Grocery Premises	96 ...	328
Fruit Shops	50 ...	356
Ice Cream Premises	77 ...	58
Restaurant Premises and Tea Rooms	20 ...	40
Chocolate, Sweet and Biscuit Premises	3 ...	10
Bakehouses	53 ...	110
Cold Stores	1 ...	4
Slaughterhouses	18 ...	2016

(b) Dairies.

Dairies have been already dealt with under the heading of Milk Supply.

(c) Slaughterhouses—Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of slaughterhouses in the Borough consist of four Registered premises and 14 in respect of which periodic licences are granted.

These premises are very frequently visited in the course of carrying out the duties under the Meat Regulations, and opportunity is taken to ensure that the Bye-laws under which these premises are controlled are being adhered to. It may be stated that the premises generally are maintained in a satisfactory state of repair, and the periodic cleansing and limewashing duly carried out. At five of the slaughterhouses improved sanitary accommodation was provided for the use of the employees. In one instance improved lairage was installed.

The provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act with reference to mechanical stunning apply generally to bovine animals and (with an exception in case of difficulty in obtaining an electric supply) to pigs, while in the case of sheep the decision is left by the Act to the Local Authority. Your Council, after having discussed the matter on previous occasions, finally, on July 17th, 1935, passed a resolution to make the provisions of the Act applicable to sheep. Your Medical Officer, in commenting on previous decisions of the Council, expressed his personal views on the matter in his previous report. *Victrix causa deis placuit, sed victa Catoni*. The provisions of the Act are now being complied with in respect to all animals, and no difficulty has arisen in its operation.

The "captive bolt" instrument is in general use, but at two slaughterhouses the "electric stunning" apparatus is also being used.

The number of slaughtermen holding licences under this Act was 78 at the end of the year, and renewal and new licences are granted as required. Only persons over 18 years of age are eligible for a licence.

(d) Shops, Stalls and Vehicles.

A total of 2055 visits of inspection were made to this class of premises during the year for the purpose of ensuring that the foods were being prepared and distributed in a satisfactory manner. During the period under review one new butcher's business was established and entire reconstruction carried out at one other premises. At both of these modern equipment together with cold storage accommodation were installed.

Two butchery businesses ceased to exist, one being closed down and one other demolished in consequence of "street widening."

Improved equipment tending to better means of handling and storage of food has been installed in a number of instances, and the majority of shops are now provided with means of automatic refrigeration.

(e) Markets.

There are 3 markets held in the Borough. An open public market is held on Market Hill on Saturdays, when all types of commodities are exposed for sale by retail, and on Wednesday a few stalls are erected for the sale of fruit and flowers. A cattle market is held in Horne Lane on Saturdays, while there is an egg, produce and poultry market in Horne Lane on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Reference to the following list will indicate that the classes of food stuffs supplied from the stalls at the market are many and varied.

As is usual in an open market the tendency to contamination of the commodities is considerable, but as far as is practicable endeavour is made by the stallholders to guard against unnecessary contamination of the goods exposed for sale.

The number of stalls on the Market Hill from which foodstuffs are sold are as follows :—

Butchers	5
Café-Buffer	1
Confectionery and Biscuits	4
Groceries and Provisions	3
Fish Mongers	9
Fruiterers	18
Shell Fish	2

(f) Bakehouses.

There were 53 bakehouses on the Register at the end of the year, 46 being in regular use, and none of these are of the "underground" type.

Two new bakehouses were established during the year.

One complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories with regard to limewashing being overdue; this was remedied on service of informal notice. Apart from this the requirements with regard to periodic cleansing and limewashing have been well adhered to, and the premises and equipment generally maintained in a cleanly state.

(g) Ice Cream.

This class of premises is not in the Borough required to be officially registered, but visits of inspection have been made to premises where this commodity is made or sold and the conditions found to be satisfactory.

The number of premises at which ice cream is made in the Borough is decreasing, since purchase from wholesale manufacturers appears to be preferred, while there is an increase in the number of premises at which ice cream is sold, principally in connection with sweets and confectionery shops at which are installed special cabinets supplied by the manufacturers.

There is one branch storage depot in the Borough of a large ice cream manufacturing firm, from which ice cream is supplied to local shops and also to vehicles purveying ice cream in the town and its neighbourhood.

These premises have been entirely reconstructed during the year, and new refrigeration plant installed.

4.—Adulteration of Food.**(a) Milk.**

There is a total of 165 retail dairymen by whom the milk supply to the town is distributed. On reference to the report on pages 55-56 may be seen the result of action which is taken to ascertain the degree of cleanliness which obtains in connection with the production and distribution of milk supplies.

In addition, for the purpose of ascertaining the quality of milk supplied and the detection of any adulteration, systematic sampling of each retailer, so far as is possible, either formally or informally, is relied upon.

During the year a total of 352 samples of milk were procured informally. These were tested in the Laboratory of the Public Health Department, and of the total samples tested 46 or 13.0 per cent. were found to be below the standard in either one or both respects of the 3 per cent. fat and 8.5 per cent. non fatty solids prescribed in the Milk Regulations of 1901.

Of the 306 samples found to be above legal standard, the average content of fatty and non fatty solids was 3.47 per cent. and 8.79 per cent. respectively.

The purpose of sampling informally is to find out where milk is of poor quality and to take appropriate action to effect an improvement, as well as to detect the possibility of any wilful adulteration.

When the latter is suspected formal samples are obtained and submitted to the Public Analyst; samples reported upon as being adulterated are dealt with by legal proceedings unless there is good reason to believe that there has been no wilful adulteration. Of the 15 samples of milk submitted to the Public Analyst five were reported upon as being adulterated, and legal proceedings were taken in respect of four of these, three of which were of the milk taken on delivery to retailers in the town, and one was a sample taken as supplied to the children of one of the Elementary Schools.

The result of legal proceedings taken in respect of adulterated samples is shown on page 69.

Some comment may perhaps be made on the result of the legal proceedings in the case of the sample last mentioned in the table, A438, a sample of milk taken on delivery from the producer. The vendor was the same as that of the samples Nos. A365 and A366 mentioned in the same table in which cases convictions were obtained. The Public Analyst reported that there was 8.7 per cent. added water an opinion which was confirmed by the freezing point test, which gave a freezing point of -0.472°C . For the defence the producer and his cowkeeper each gave evidence that neither of them had watered the milk, and the case was accordingly dismissed, no doubt on the assumption that the producer and his cowman were honourable men; for, so far as the writer has been able to ascertain, the canon of *credo quia absurdum* has not yet been adopted as a principle of general application to determine the acceptability of evidence in courts of summary jurisdiction.

(b) Other Foods.

By reference to the table on page 68 it may be noted that a variety of food commodities and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst.

Of the total of 84 samples submitted to the Public Analyst, 15 of which were milk and 69 other foods, 11 samples (13.1 per cent.) were not of the nature, substance and quality of the articles demanded.

Of the 69 samples of other foods submitted (excluding 15 milk samples) 3 were formal samples and 66 were procured informally. Six of the samples were reported upon as being adulterated.

(c) Tables.

The nature and number of the samples submitted is shown in the following table; a separate table is also given showing the adulteration found and action taken with regard to samples adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst.

Table of Samples taken.

Commodity.	No. of Samples.			No. Genuine.			No. Adulterated.		
	Formal	Inf'l.	Total	Formal	Inf'l.	Total	Formal	Inf'l.	Total
Asparagus Tips		1	1		1	1			
Aspirins		2	2		2	2			
Bismuthated Magnesia		1	1		1	1			
Black Currant Jam ...	2	1	3	2	0	2		1	1
Bloater Paste		1	1		1	1			
Butter		3	3		2	2		1	1
Cake Flour		1	1		1	1			
Camphorated Oil ...		1	1		1	1			
Candied Peel		1	1		1	1			
Cascara Segrada									
Tablets		1	1		1	1			
Champignous		1	1		1	1			
Cheddar Cheese		2	2		2	2			
Cocoa		1	1		1	1			
Cod Liver Oil		1	1		1	1			
Coffee and Chicory									
Essence		1	1		1	1			
Compound Balsam of									
Aniseed		1	1		1	1			
Condensed Milk		2	2		2	2			
Crystalized Cherries ...		1	1		1	1			
Dessicated Cocoanu ...		1	1		1	1			
Dressed Crab		1	1		1	1			
Dried Milk		2	2		2	2			
Dried Mint		1	1		1	1			
Eucalyptus Oil		1	1		1	1			
Greengage Jam		1	1		1	1			
Ground Nuts		1	1		1	1			
Ground Rice		1	1		1	1			
Herrings in Tomato ...		1	1		1	1			
Horseradish Sauce		1	1		1	1			
Jam and Cream Sand-									
wich	1	1	2				1	1	2
Kidney Pills... ..		1	1		1	1			
Lard Substitute		1	1		1	1			
Lemonade Powder		1	1		1	1			
Lime Juice and Soda									
Crystals		1	1		1	1			
Macaroni		1	1		1	1			
Marmalade		1	1		1	1			
Milk	15		15	10		10	5		5
Minced Beef... ..		1	1		1	1			
Mincemeat		2	2		2	2			
Mint Sauce		1	1		1	1			
Pastry Compound		1	1		1	1			
Pork Pie		2	2		2	2			
Sage and Onion Stuffing		1	1		1	1			
Salad Cream		1	1		1	1			
Salmon Creme		1	1		1	1		2	2
Sausage (Beef)		5	5		3	3			
Sausage (Luncheon) ...		1	1		1	1			
Sausage (Pork)		2	2		2	2			
Slab Cake		1	1		1	1			
Syrup of Figs		2	2		2	2			
Tincture of Iodine ...		1	1		1	1			
Tinned Cream		2	2		2	2			
Vita Cup		1	1		1	1			
Totals	18	66	84	12	61	73	6	5	11

Particulars of action taken with regard to Adulterated Samples.

Serial No. of Sample.		Com- modity.	Nature of Adulteration.	Remarks and Action Taken.
Formal.	Informal.			
A 365		Milk	23% added water 9% abstracted fat	Proceedings taken. Fined £5 and 12/- costs.
A366		Milk	31.5% added water	Proceedings taken. Fined £5 and 12/- costs
A 367		Milk	6.3% added water	No proceedings taken. Sample of bulk milk from retailer, including milk in respect of which proceedings taken against producer. (Samples A365 & A366)
A 371		Milk	12.2% added water	Proceedings taken. Fined £4 and 15/6 costs.
	A 374	Butter	15% fat and certain amount colouring matter both foreign to genuine butter.	No opportunity of taking a further sample formally—consignment sold out.
	A 382	Black Currant Jam	69 parts per million of S.O.2.	Formal Samples A 386 and A 387 reported upon as genuine.
	A 396	Beef Sausage	96 parts per million S.O.2.	
	A 401	Beef Sausage	41 parts per million S.O.2.	
	A 427	Jam and Cream Sandwich	Cream of the said sand- wich not derived from milk.	} Cautioned.
A 431		Jam and Cream Sandwich	Cream of the said sand- wich not derived from milk.	
A 438		Milk	8.7% added water	Proceedings taken. Case dismissed.

(d) Margarine.

There are no premises in the Borough at which margarine is manufactured, but there are 17 premises included on the Register at which wholesale dealing in this commodity is transacted.

In the course of visitation to premises, both wholesale and retail, at which margarine is handled, no offences under the Act have been noted.

(e) Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1927.

Of the samples of food commodities submitted to the Public Analyst, including milk samples, all were reported upon as being free from preservative, with the exception of one sample of jam and two samples of beef sausage obtained informally.

The amount of added preservative in the sample of jam was 69 parts per million of S.O.2, being 29 parts per million in excess of the permitted amount. No official action was taken with regard to this sample, as two subsequent formal samples were reported upon as genuine.

Two informal samples of beef sausage, not labelled as containing preservative, contained 96 and 41 parts per million respectively, as against 450 parts per million permitted by the Regulations. The attention of the vendor was directed to this matter and the appropriate requirements as to "labelling" are now being adhered to.

(f) Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

The amount of artificial cream manufactured in the Borough is almost negligible, there being only one premises on the Register at which this commodity is made, and then solely during certain seasonal periods.

(g) Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923-1927.

No offences with regard to labelling have been noted, and the two samples submitted to the Public Analyst were reported upon as being in accordance with the Regulations.

(h) Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923-1927.

Two samples of dried milk were procured during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst, who reported them as being genuine.

(i) Merchandise Marks Acts, 1926.

In the course of visits to premises under the Shops Act, 1934, special attention has been given at those premises where the commodities sold require to be appropriately labelled under Orders in Council made under the above Act.

Leaflets specifying the requirements of the Orders were supplied to shopkeepers and their attention directed as to their obligations.

Action has also been taken with regard to the stallholders on the Market Hill.

On occasion laxity has been noted with regard to the appropriate labelling of goods exposed for sale, particularly with regard to apples and tomatoes, and the offenders cautioned.

To ensure that the requirements of the Act are duly complied with, constant attention and supervision of the shops, stalls and vehicles patrolling the streets where these goods are exposed for sale is essential.

No legal proceedings for any offence under this Act were instituted during the year.

VI. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

1.—Infectious Diseases, Other than Tuberculosis.

(a) General Statistics.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases :—

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1935.

Disease.	† Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.*	Total deaths registered.
Smallpox
Scarlet Fever	114	107	2
Diphtheria	43	44	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	16
Pneumonia	48	...	19
Cerebro Spinal Fever
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Poliomyelitis
Polioencephalitis
Erysipelas	11	6	...
Dysentery
Malaria
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	2	...
Chickenpox	234	1	...

* Calendar Year ending December 31st. Reference is to Borough Isolation Hospital only.
† In the 52 weeks ending December 28th, 1935.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease of which information was received otherwise than by notification.

Disease.	Information received from Head Teachers.	Information received from Health Visitors.		Total.	Total Deaths Registered.
		Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.		
Measles
Whooping Cough ..	9	7	...	16	...
Mumps	9	9	...

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of infectious disease notified according to age:—

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the 52-week period ending 28th December, 1935.

DISEASE	Under 1 year.	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total all ages
		to 2	to 3	to 4	to 5	to 10	to 15	to 20	to 35	to 45	to 65	and upwards	
Smallpox	14
Scarlet Fever	...	2	5	2	7	45	23	9	...	5	2	...	114
Diphtheria	1	1	3	22	10	4	1	1	43
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1
Puerperal Fever	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	4	16
Pneumonia	1	2	4	3	2	1	8	5	12	10	48
Encephalitis Lethargica
Polioomyelitis
Polioencephalitis
Cerebro Spinal Fever...
Erysipelas	1	...	1	1	1	5	2	11
Dysentery
Malaria
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	6
Chickenpox	1	9	9	9	12	149	32	8	3	2	234

(b) Smallpox.

No cases of smallpox were notified during the year.

(c) Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases notified after allowing for revision of diagnosis was 114.* This number was almost identical with that for the previous year, namely 115. The case rate per thousand was 2.63, which may be compared with the case rate for England and Wales of 2.96. Two deaths occurred from this disease, corresponding to a death rate of 0.05 per 1,000 population. The disease was generally of the mild type now prevalent.

* In the 52-week period ending 28th December.

The following table shows the incidence in the different wards of the Borough :—

Ward.	No. of cases.				Rate per thousand.			
	Including cases occurring in institutions.		Omitting cases occurring in institutions.		Including cases occurring in institutions.		Omitting cases occurring in institutions.	
Castle	...	10	...	10	...	1.47	...	1.47
Cauldwell	...	18	...	17	...	2.57	...	2.43
De Parys	...	18	...	14	...	2.88	...	2.24
Harpur	...	10	...	10	...	1.70	...	1.70
Kingsbrook	...	16	...	16	...	3.15	...	3.15
Newnham	...	40	...	40	...	6.15	...	6.15
Queens Park	...	2	...	2	...	0.34	...	0.34
Totals	114		109		2.63		2.51	

The following table shows the incidence of cases and deaths for the last ten years.

Year.	Cases.		Deaths.	
1926	...	229	...	1
1927	...	197	...	3
1928	...	143	...	1
1929	...	119	...	2
1930	...	58	...	—
1931	...	46	...	—
1932	...	130	...	3
1933	...	137	...	—
*1934	...	115	...	—
1935	...	114	...	2

* Borough extended on April 1st, 1934.

The number during the successive quarters of the year was 28, 28, 22 and 36. The figures show an increased prevalence during the last quarter of the year in accordance with the usual epidemiology of scarlet fever.

The number of cases which occurred among the elementary school population was 59. There was no specially high prevalence in any school or class.

Scarlatinal antitoxin is provided free of charge to medical practitioners for private treatment of patients not in a position to pay for this treatment.

(d) Diphtheria.

The number of cases of diphtheria notified (in the 52-weeks period ending 28th December) after allowing for revision of diagnosis was 43.

The case rate per thousand was 0.99, which may be compared with the case rate of 1.60 for England and Wales generally. Two patients died of the disease, which corresponds to a death rate of 0.05 per thousand in comparison with 0.08, the rate for England and Wales. The fatality rate per 100 cases notified was 4.65 per cent.

The following table shows the incidence of the cases in the different wards of the Borough :—

Ward.	No. of cases.				Rate per thousand.			
	Including cases occurring in institutions.		Omitting cases occurring in institutions.		Including cases occurring in institutions.		Omitting cases occurring in institutions.	
Castle	...	2	...	2	...	0.29	...	0.29
Cauldwell	...	20	...	17	...	2.86	...	2.43
De Parys	...	1	...	1	...	0.16	...	0.16
Harpur	...	—	...	—	...	0.00	...	0.00
Kingsbrook	...	18	...	18	...	3.54	...	3.54
Newnham	...	1	...	1	...	0.15	...	0.15
Queens Park	...	1	...	1	...	0.17	...	0.17
	—		—		—		—	
Totals		43		40		0.99		0.92
	—		—		—		—	

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided free of charge for private practitioners for treatment of patients not in a position to pay for this treatment.

The following table shows the incidence of cases notified and deaths which have occurred during the last ten years :—

Year.		Cases.		Deaths.
1926	...	64	...	—
1927	...	23	...	3
1928	...	28	...	1
1929	...	16	...	1
1930	...	13	...	1
1931	...	1	...	—
1932	...	4	...	—
1933	...	3	...	—
*1934	...	7	...	1
1935	...	43	...	2

* Borough extended on April 1st, 1934.

It will be seen from the table that for a period of years Bedford had been almost entirely free from diphtheria. The disease reappeared towards the end of 1934. During the year under review the number of cases which occurred during successive quarters was as follows: 1, 6, 19, 17. This increased prevalence has continued into 1936, but now at the time of writing the outbreak appears to have subsided.

In his last report your Medical Officer expressed the hope that the generally healthy condition of Bedford would continue to keep Bedford free from diphtheria, a disease which after all is in the main as *pestis pauperum*, and that therefore measures of artificial immunisation would continue to be unnecessary. His hope has been to some extent falsified. For this reason artificial immunisation has been rendered available for children of those parents who desire it as a means of individual protection.

Apart altogether from artificial immunisation, to which reference is made in a later section of this report, it is still permissible to hope that under the environmental conditions of Bedford diphtheria will not acquire that high virulence and wide prevalence which it has shown in some parts of the country where poverty is greater, houses are worse, and overcrowding is more prevalent. In spite of its reappearance in 1935 the figures already given show the rate in Bedford was still below that of the country as a whole.

(e) Enteric Fever.

One case of enteric fever, showed by agglutination tests to be true typhoid, was notified. In this case the disease was found to have been acquired at a seaside resort where the patient had been staying, and where there was an outbreak of the disease.

(f) Pneumonia.

Forty-eight cases were notified in the 52-weeks period ending 28th December, 1935, compared with 63 in 1934. The number of cases of pneumonia notified is largely related to the prevalence of influenza, and the comparatively small number notified is in accordance with the fact that influenza was not prevalent during the year in severe form. Nineteen deaths in all were registered as due to this disease.

(g) Measles.

The last epidemic of measles occurred in the early part of 1933 and it has not yet reappeared in epidemic form, though in accordance with its usual epidemiology it may be expected to reappear in the near future.

(h) Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was not prevalent during the year under review. In all information was received of 16 cases, of which 9 were reported by Head Teachers and 7 by the Health Visitors.

(i) Influenza.

Sixteen deaths were registered as due to this disease. Though this number is greater than that for 1934, namely 7, it is not so high as may be expected during a year of epidemic prevalence.

(j) Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

Puerperal Pyrexia denotes a condition of raised temperature occurring within twenty-one days of childbirth or miscarriage, cases of puerperal fever being excluded from the definition. Puerperal Fever includes those cases of generalised blood infection which occur as the result of childbirth, while the causes of puerperal pyrexia may be quite unconnected with childbirth.

Steps are taken to ensure that, so far as possible, where cases are notified from institutions in the Borough to which patients have been removed for treatment, such cases are allocated to the area where the disease originally occurred. Where patients have been admitted to an institution for confinement, and the disease has its onset in this institution, the case is allocated to the Borough, whatever the patient's normal residence may be. In cases notified as puerperal fever any previous notification of puerperal pyrexia is cancelled.

The following table shows the number of cases of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia notified after making the adjustments described. The number of births taking place in the Borough to which the figures given relate was 761.

One patient, notified as puerperal pyrexia only, died of puerperal fever.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

	Total Cases.	Confinement in Borough.			Confinement outside Borough but notification in outside district not secured.	Borough residents notified from London Institutions in accordance with law relating to London Institutions.
		In Public Institution or Hospital.	Nursing Home or Girls' Home.	Private Houses.		
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	7*	4	4	...	1
Puerperal Fever	2	1	1	...

* One patient died from puerperal fever.

The rates for the Borough per thousand births for puerperal fever, 3.50, and for puerperal pyrexia, 28.02, may be compared with those for the country as a whole, 3.60 and 9.44 respectively. The fact that the figures for the Borough for both conditions taken together are above those for the country generally does not indicate that these conditions are really more prevalent in the Borough than in the country generally; for, in the first place, it may be noted that a large number of births of infants whose parents are non-resident take place in institutions within the Borough; and in these cases, if puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia occurs, the disease is notified in the Borough, though the birth is registered for a different area, a fact which tends to make the rate per thousand registered births (for the Borough) too high; while, in the second place, in towns of the type of Bedford there are a larger relative number of institutional births than in many other areas, and in institutions notification is doubtless more complete than in births taking place at home. That this explanation is largely correct is indicated by the table given above showing where confinement took place in notified cases of these diseases.

(k) Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The following table shows the number of cases and the result of treatment.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	Home.	Hospital.				
6	1	5	6

Of the six cases notified, 2 were treated at St. Peter's Hospital, 2 at the Borough Isolation Hospital, and 1 at the Bedford County Hospital (Out-Patients Department), while the remaining case was treated at home.

Many cases now notified are of very mild type, a fact which is probably due to the better understanding of the necessity of early treatment in any affection of the eyes in infants.

(l) Other Infectious Diseases.

No cases of cerebro-spinal fever, encephalitis lethargica, poliomyelitis, or polioencephalitis were notified.

(m) Schick and Dick Tests and Artificial Immunisation.

In his last report your Medical Officer expressed the hope that the influences which for several years past had kept Bedford free from diphtheria would continue to act in the future, and that therefore no immediate action in the matter of immunisation was necessary, but should be undertaken if diphtheria showed definite signs of reappearance. His hope has been to a great extent falsified by events.

Your Public Health Committee therefore decided, on the advice of your Medical Officer, to make immunisation available for children of those parents who desired it. In order to bring the matter to the notice of parents posters were exhibited in the town, and a circular letter was addressed to all parents of children attending elementary schools and distributed to the children by the Head Teachers. Parents were in the circular and poster advised that protection against diphtheria is now possible and to seek further advice from their own medical men or from the Public Health Department. The material for inoculation, namely Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules, given in three injections, or other material on request, is supplied, free of charge, to medical practitioners for patients who are not reasonably able to afford it themselves. A clinic has also been held for parents desiring to avail themselves of it. Up to the present the response has been small. The following table shows the position at the end of the year.

Number of cases for which material has been supplied to private practitioners	...	18
Number of children who have had complete course of three injections at clinic	...	6

At the clinic a preliminary Schick Test is done. It is intended that all children injected shall be tested after the course of injections, and if necessary further injected to ensure complete immunisation. Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules are used at the clinic, and the three injections given at weekly intervals. So far no noticeable reactions have occurred.

(n) Vaccinations.

No vaccinations were carried out by your Medical Officer under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

2.—Cancer.

The following table shows the prevalence of cancer deaths during the last ten years.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	England & Wales.	
				Rate per 1000.	Rate per 1000.
1926	32	33	65	1.54	1.43
1927	28	26	54	1.27	1.44
1928	29	41	70	1.68	1.49
1929	30	26	56	1.35	1.50
1930	28	43	71	1.75	1.52
1931	41	33	74	1.80	1.55
1932	26	44	70	1.70	1.58
1933	27	57	84	2.09	1.59
1934	30	47	77	1.80	1.63
1935	24	51	75	1.73	—
Average Rates	—	—	—	—	—
1926-1935	29.5	40.1	69.6	1.67	1.53

The table shows that increase from year to year in the prevalence of cancer which has been so often noted in recent years. This increase is no doubt related in part to the increasing average age of the population, though no doubt also in part to causes as yet unascertained. The greater rate in Bedford as compared with the country as a whole is probably in the main due to the greater average age of Bedford residents than those of the country at large.

3.—Tuberculosis.

The following table indicates the number of new cases and deaths from this disease during the year under review, and the number of patients admitted to hospital.

Tuberculosis—Cases, Deaths and Admissions to Hospital

				Total New Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
(a) Respiratory—						
Males				17	15	16
Females				15	11	10
Totals ...				32	26	26
(b) Non-Respiratory—						
Males				3	1	1
Females				5	3	3
Totals ...				8	4	4

The following table indicates the age distribution of the cases and deaths.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	2	—	—	—	3	1	—	1
20	1	5	1	2	1	—	—	—
25	1	5	—	—	1	2	—	—
35	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
45	8	—	—	—	4	3	1	—
55	1	1	—	—	5	1	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	1
Totals	17	15	3	5	16	10	1	3

The total number of non-notified deaths was 5, giving a ratio of non-notified to previously notified deaths of 16.7 per cent.

In cases of deaths not previously notified a communication is addressed to the certifying doctor, and the usual reply is that the patient had previously been under the care of another doctor and the certifying doctor assumed that the case had already been notified.

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year.

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Respiratory	64	...	77	...	141
Non-respiratory	29	...	36	...	65
			—		—		—
Totals	...		93		113		206
			—		—		—

The register is kept up-to-date, so far as possible, by removal of those patients who die or leave the district, or in whose cases reports of cure are received from the County Tuberculosis Officer.

The following table shows the Institutions to which patients were removed for treatment :—

Institution.	Number of cases removed.	Site of disease.	Remarks.
Mogerhanger Park Sanatorium	... 14	Respiratory	
St. Peter's Hospital	... 7	„	
Metropolitan Hos- pital	... 1	„	
Ventnor Sanatorium	... 1	„	
Orthopaedic Hospi- tal, Oswestry	... 1	Non-respiratory	
King Edward VII. San., Midhurst	... 1	Respiratory	
Burrow Hill Colony, Frimley	... 1	„	
Victoria Home, Margate	... 2	Non-respiratory	
St. Thomas's Hos- pital	... 1	„	Thence to Pyrford Orthopaedic Hospital
Royal Northern Hospital	... 1	Respiratory	Thence to Ventnor

It will be seen from the foregoing table that 30 deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis, of which 26 were respiratory and 4 non-respiratory. The corresponding figures for 1934 were a total of 26, of which 19 were respiratory and 7 non-respiratory. The figures for 1935 correspond to a death rate of .69 per thousand for all forms, .60 for respiratory and .09 for non-respiratory cases.

The causes of deaths of the four cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were as follows :—

One acute miliary tuberculosis, one of spinal tuberculosis and tuberculous kidney, one of tuberculous meningitis, and one of tuberculous *fistula in ano*.

All patients notified as suffering from tuberculosis are visited by the Health Visitor, unless for any reason such visits are undesirable. Visits are paid on notification and subsequently in accordance with the amount of supervision required.

The following table shows the number of visits paid :—

First visits	30
Systematic re-visits	189
Re-visits for special purposes	18
Useless calls (<i>i.e.</i> , patients not at home)	31
Total					268

Twenty-seven rooms were disinfected after death or removal of patients.

No occasion arose for action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925. These provisions relate respectively to prohibition from engaging in the handling of milk persons suffering from tuberculosis and to the compulsory removal to hospital of patients in an infective state and liable to be a source of danger to others.

4.—Isolation Hospitals.

Patients suffering from scarlet fever and diphtheria are removed to the Isolation Hospital, except where satisfactory isolation and treatment can be maintained at home.

(a) Scarlet Fever.

The following table shows the number of patients suffering from scarlet fever admitted and discharged during the year:—

No. of scarlet fever cases remaining in hospital at year ending 31st December, 1934	6
No. admitted during the year	107
No. died in hospital during the year	2
No. discharged during the year	94
No. remaining in hospital at year ending 31st December, 1935	17

After allowing for revision of diagnosis, 107 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, as compared with 107 in 1934. Of this number 52 were males and 55 females.

One patient admitted from an outside area is not included in the figures. One patient admitted with double infection of diphtheria and scarlet fever is included in the figures.

The following table shows the classification of the cases in 1935 and previous years. As a rough guide in determining the initial severity of a case, a temperature of 101° on admission is taken as the dividing line between mild and moderately severe, and 103° as the line between the moderately severe and severe.

Year.	Total Cases.	Classification.			Uncertain on account of late admission.	Complicated.
		Mild.	Moderately Severe.	Severe.		
1929	104 (100%)	71 (68.3%)	25 (24.0%)	8 (7.7%)	— (0.0%)	23 (22.1%)
1930	49 (100%)	33 (67.3%)	15 (30.6%)	1 (2.1%)	— (0.0%)	9 (18.4%)
1931	37 (100%)	30 (81.1%)	7 (18.9%)	— (0.0%)	— (0.0%)	4 (10.8%)
1932	119 (100%)	74 (62.2%)	36 (30.3%)	8 (6.7%)	1 (0.8%)	35 (28.4%)
1933	119 (100%)	55 (46.2%)	45 (37.8%)	11 (9.3%)	8 (6.7%)	32 (26.9%)
1934	107 (100%)	73 (68.2%)	25 (23.4%)	5 (4.7%)	4 (3.7%)	27 (25.2%)
1935	107 (100%)	62 (57.9%)	36 (33.6%)	7 (6.5%)	2 (1.9%)	23 (21.5%)

It will be seen from the table that in comparison with the previous year the average type of case was rather more severe. Of the total of 107 cases a total of 23, or 21.5 per cent., showed complications sufficiently serious to be noted, a proportion somewhat below that for previous years.

The proportion of complications occurring in the types of different severity is shown in the following table:—

Type of cases.	Total number.		Number showing complications.
Mild	62	...	11 (17.7 per cent.)
Moderately severe ...	36	...	9 (25.0 per cent.)
Severe	7	...	3 (42.9 per cent.)
Uncertain severity ...	2	...	— (00.0 per cent.)

It will be seen from the table that the severe and moderately severe types of cases show a greater tendency to complications than the milder types.

The following table shows the number of complications present. The individual complications are given, and since some cases present more than one complication, the total number of complications is greater than the total number of cases.

Complication.	No.	Remarks.
Cervical Adenitis	14	
Otitis Media ...	2	
Nephritis ...	9	Some of these cases classified as nephritis were very mild and had only transient albuminuria for a few days. In one case occurred in connection with a relapse.
Other diseases present 5 (pre-existing or intercurrent). (These cases are not classified as compli- cated in former table).		The total includes one case of otitis media, one of varicella, two of diphtheria, and one of mumps.

In those cases where diphtheria is noted as an intercurrent or pre-existing disease in one case the patient developed symptoms of scarlet fever within a few hours of admission for diphtheria, and evidently was infected with both diseases at the time of admission (this case is also included among the diphtheria figures); in the other case the patient acquired diphtheria after admission for scarlet fever, and was evidently infected while in hospital. (Since infection was not till after the close of the year this case is not included in the

diphtheria figures for 1935). Unfortunately where both diseases are prevalent in the area from which patients are admitted it is inevitable, in spite of every care, that patients suffering from one disease should be admitted while carrying the infection of the other disease, and this gives rise to cross infection in the wards.

Two deaths took place during the year under review in adults aged 54 and 35 respectively.

It is usually stated in the text book that "relapses," that is secondary attacks with the special symptoms of scarlet fever occurring within a few weeks of the primary attack, occur in less than one per cent. of all cases. During the few years preceding the year under review this proportion has been exceeded, as shown in the following table. During the year under review one case only of relapse occurred, in which the relapse was of moderately severe type following an initially mild attack.

Year.	Total Cases.				Relapses.
1932	119	...	10 (8.4 per cent.)
1933	119	...	2 (1.7 per cent.)
1934	107	...	3 (2.8 per cent.)
1935	107	...	1 (0.9 per cent.)

Antitoxin is used for the treatment of some of the more severe and moderately severe cases. There can be little doubt that this remedy often produces an almost immediate fall in temperature and increases the comfort of the patient, and one's impression is that it is also of value in preventing complications, though it is difficult to prove this from figures.

The average duration of stay in hospital of patients admitted with scarlet fever was 33.2 days. Ordinary uncomplicated cases which present no evidence of infectivity are normally discharged after 28 days' treatment in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. Where there is any evidence of continued infectivity they are retained for a more prolonged period.

(b) Diphtheria.

The following table shows the number of patients suffering from diphtheria admitted and discharged during the year :—

No. of diphtheria cases remaining in hospital at year ending 31st December, 1934	4
No. admitted during the year	44
No. died in hospital during the year	2
No. discharged during the year	32
No. remaining in hospital at year ending 31st December, 1935	14

After allowing for revision of diagnosis, 44 cases of diphtheria were treated during the year. Of this number 23 were males and 21 females. The figures include one patient admitted with double infection of diphtheria and scarlet fever.

The cases were all of faucial or nasopharyngeal type and are classified as follows on account of the extent of membrane and degree of toxaemia, though any such classification is necessarily arbitrary.

Mild	18
Moderately severe	17
Severe	8
Uncertain	1

Two patients died.

Patients admitted in late stage of diphtheritic paralysis or as carriers only are not included in the figures.

The following are the complications apart from such very common, in fact almost universal, complications as some degree of palatine paralysis or cardiac involvement.

Nature of complication.	Remarks.
Cervical Adenitis	... Suppurative; incision under general anaesthetic.
General Septicaemia	... Recovery.
Scarlet Fever	... Ward infection, occurred in 1936.

(c) Typhoid.

One patient was admitted with typhoid. He was a man aged 26 years, and the attack was a mild one.

(d) Other Diseases (Other than Smallpox).

The following table shows the number of cases of other diseases treated :—

Disease.	No. of cases.	Average duration of stay in days.	Remarks.
Tonsilitis	2	17.5	Admitted on suspicion of diphtheria
Influenza	1	24	Admitted on suspicion of diphtheria
Impetigo	1	19	Admitted on suspicion of scarlet fever.
Varicella	1	20	Admitted with acute lymphangitis of arm.
Scabies	2	4	
Hodgkin's Disease	1	1	Admitted with septic throat
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	28	One infant admitted with mother.

Disease.	No. of cases.	Average duration of stay in days.	Remarks.
Mumps	6	13.1	
Measles	7	19.8	Admitted from institutions.
Erysipelas	6	9.5	
Laryngitis	1	9	Admitted on suspicion of diphtheria
Nasal Catarrh and Bronchitis	1	27	Admitted on suspicion of diphtheria
Post Diphtheritic Paralysis	2	41.5	
Pharyngitis	1	7	
Diphtheria Carriers	3	11	
No appreciable disease, admitted as possible Diphtheria Carrier	1	13	

(e) Return Cases.

Return cases are defined as cases of scarlet fever or diphtheria occurring in the same house as a patient discharged from hospital or released from home isolation within a period of 28 days from such discharge or release. It cannot in all cases be certain that the patient discharged is in reality the source of infection, nor is the possibility of infection limited to the same house or the period of 28 days, so that such a definition is necessarily somewhat arbitrary.

Each case is made the subject of careful enquiry, in order if possible to ascertain the cause of continued or renewed infectivity and to take action and give advice as to the avoidance of further spread of infection.

The following table shows the results of inquiry in return cases of scarlet fever:—

Case No. 1.—Female aged 6, occurred five days after discharge from hospital of brother aged 8; a mild case without complications, who presented no signs of renewed infectivity after discharge.

Case No. 2.—Male aged 40, occurred 13 days after discharge from hospital of daughter aged 12; a moderately severe case with no complications. After discharge developed signs of renewed infectivity in form of sore on nostril.

It will be seen that during the year two return cases occurred in relation to two cases discharged, a percentage of 2.13 of the total discharges during the year (94).

No return cases of diphtheria occurred.

(f) Smallpox.

No patients suffering from smallpox were admitted during the year.

(g) Local Government Act, 1929, Section 63—Revision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

The negotiations for the formation of a Joint Hospital Board by the Bedford Borough, the Bedford Rural District and the Kempston Urban District Councils were continued during the year and on April 1st of the present year the Borough Isolation Hospital was closed and the Oakley Isolation Hospital, previously the property of the Bedford Rural District Council, was taken over by the Joint Hospital Board.

Arrangements are being made with the County Council for the Newnham Smallpox Hospital to be available for the neighbouring districts of the County.

CONCLUSION.

The year under review was again marked by increase in the activities of the Public Health Department made necessary by new legislation, of which the most important was the Housing Act, 1935, with its far-reaching provisions relating to overcrowding, though the work under this Act was in 1935 of a preliminary nature only. In the present year, relating to other sections of the Department's work we already have the Midwives' Bill, and we have also the Public Health Bill, the object of which is to consolidate all previous laws on the subject of Public Health. Legislation indeed proceeds in ever increasing complexity. Acts which appear to have been designed as consolidating Acts are now succeeded in a few years by new Acts repealing, amending and extending the old, and the new Acts are again accompanied by new regulations, circulars and administrative programmes, all of which must be attended to, and which mean greatly increased duties for the Local Authority and its officials, neither of whom have much choice of the extent to which they shall undertake these new burdens imposed upon them by the Central Government. To the more reflective officials it may at times seem that they are in the grip of a Frankenstein-monster which officials themselves have taken a great part, if not the greatest part, in creating. And it is sometimes asked, though it may be more by others than by officials, "where is it all going to end?" Perhaps the *where* is less in doubt than the *when*, and we may be permitted to echo, with that amount of hope which they contain, the words spoken when the downfall of the *ancien régime* was foreseen, *après nous le déluge*, and to trust at least that "it will last our time."



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.



REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1935.

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TION *page 115*1.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DIS-
INFECTION

2.—DISINFESTATION

Report of Senior Sanitary Inspector.

F. C. HAYNES, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

I. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The duties carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Department during the year 1935 are included in the following (1) Summary of Inspections and (2) Table showing detailed nature of work carried out, together with the information contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1.—Summary of General Inspections, and Administrative Duties.

Housing.

No. of Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	613
„ Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	517
„ Houses found to be totally unfit for human habitation	10
„ Premises inspected under the Public Health Acts ...	483
„ Premises at which nuisances or defects were discovered	410
„ Re-visits to houses and premises under Housing and Public Health Acts	5374
„ Houses remedied under Housing Acts	567
„ Premises where nuisances remedied under Public Health Acts	410
„ Houses and rooms found to be overcrowded on Manchester standard (new cases)	7

Drainage.

No. of House drains tested on payment of fee	17
„ House drains where defects found	7

No. of Drains tested on complaint	91
„ „ where defects found	70
„ „ inspected after exposure	10
„ „ where defects found	10
„ Schools and Boarding House drains tested	61
„ „ „ „ „ „ where defects found	13
„ Drains examined after notification of Infectious Disease	136
„ Re-visits for inspection during repairs and reconstruction	1249
„ Re-tests made to drains	247

Infectious Diseases.

No. of Visits made	215
„ Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	190

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of Visits made to Cowsheds	16
„ „ „ Dairies and Milkshops	390

Visits made to Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops.

No. of Visits to Slaughter Houses	2016
„ „ Meat Shops and Vehicles	543

Visits made to other Food Premises.

No. of Visits to Fish Shops and Vehicles	246
„ „ Fruit Shops and Vehicles	356
„ „ Grocery and Provision Shops and Vehicles	328
„ „ Restaurant Kitchens and Refreshment Houses	40
„ „ Ice Cream Premises	58
„ „ Cold Stores	4
„ „ Bakehouses	110

Visits made to Markets and Stalls.

No. of Visits to Meat Stalls	135
„ „ Fish Stalls	77
„ „ Fruit Stalls	213
„ „ Grocery Stalls	65
„ „ Cattle Market	10
„ „ Poultry and Produce Market	10

Factory and Workshops, including Bakehouses.

No. of Visits to Factories, including Bakehouses	178
„ „ Workshops, including Bakehouses	397
„ „ Workplaces	54
„ „ Outworkers' Premises	43

Shops Act.

No. of Inspections	1022
„ Contraventions	173

Smoke Abatement.

No. of Observations made	3
„ Interviews with Managers and Stokers, etc.	1

Offensive Trades.

No. of Visits of inspection to premises and vehicles	94
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Common Lodging Houses.

No. of Visits made	37
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Houses Let in Lodgings.

No. of Visits made	341
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Animals (Premises).

No. of Visits made	15
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Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, &c.

No. of Visits made	63
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Amusement Houses.

No. of Visits made	43
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Public Houses and Hotels.

No. of Visits made	58
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Merchandise Marks Act.

No. of Visits made to shops and vehicles	148
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Rats and Mice Destruction Acts.

No. of Visits made to infested premises	93
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Sundry Nuisances.

No. of Visits made reference complaints or nuisances discovered	81
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Miscellaneous Visits.

No. of Visits made (unclassified)	579
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Food and Drugs Sampling.

No. of Samples submitted to the Public Analyst, formal	18
informal	66	84
„ Samples reported upon as being adulterated	11
„ Informal samples procured and examined in the Laboratory of the Public Health Department	352
No. found to be not of requisite standard	46

No. of Samples of Graded Milk submitted for examination	42
„ Samples of Graded Milk not of requisite standard	9
„ Samples for bacteriological examination	75
„ Samples for tuberculosis examination	37

General Administration.

No. of Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, Tenants, etc.—						
At office	1576
On site	4807
„ Informal notices served under Housing Act	...					517
„ „ „ „ „ Public Health Acts						410
„ „ „ „ „ Shops Acts						173
„ „ „ „ „ various Byelaws,						
Orders and Regulations		68
Total No. of Informal notices served		1168
„ Statutory Notices served—						
Housing Act	1
Public Health Acts	—
„ Legal Proceedings taken under—						
Public Health Acts	—
Housing Acts	—
Food and Drugs Act	4
Other Statutes, Orders or Regulations				—

2.—Administration.

(a) Housing Acts.

A scheduled programme of action to be taken under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1932, was prepared and submitted to the Authority for confirmation.

During the year a total of 603 houses were duly inspected in accordance with the programme.

Quarterly Progress Returns were submitted to the Ministry of Health in accordance with instructions.

The provisions of the Housing Act, 1935, relating to the abatement and prevention of overcrowding, were given special consideration, and a scheme prepared for carrying out a systematic survey of the houses in the district in accordance with statutory requirements.

House-to-house inspection during the year under the Housing Regulations was somewhat restricted as a considerable amount of time was devoted to inspections and supervision of works necessary to meet the requirements of the Sanitary Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

A total of 603 houses, specially scheduled as being of such age and type as requiring attention to ensure that they attain to a reasonable standard, and situated in various Wards, were duly inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations.

By reason of disrepair or sanitary defect 517 houses were found to fall short of the required standard, whilst the remaining 86 houses were found to be in a reasonable state of repair.

A complete and detailed inspection of each house is made, which together with the negotiations with owners and builders and the supervision of subsequent repairs and renovations entails a considerable amount of the Inspectors' time, which would appear to be fully justified, having regard to the improvements effected in the houses dealt with, and may be regarded as one of the most important activities of the Department.

A perusal of the summary shown on pages 97-102 will serve to indicate the improvements effected.

The average cost of carrying out requirements to each house is estimated at from £15 to £25.

(b) Public Health Acts.

The principal duties involved in the administration of the provisions of these Acts comprise the abatement of sundry nuisances and the remedying of minor defects in connection with house premises.

A total of 483 inspections were made and 410 informal notices served during the year.

3.—Table showing detailed nature of work carried out as a Result of Inspections.

(a) Dwelling Houses.

Dwelling Houses—General Improvements.

No. of Defective roofs repaired or renewed	88
„ Defective chimney heads repaired or renewed	57
„ Eavesgutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	83
„ Damp walls remedied	192
„ Defective walls, brickwork and pointing made sound	266
„ Rooms cleansed and re-decorated	933
„ Verminous rooms disinfested	366
„ Defective floors repaired or renewed	199
„ Defective windows repaired or renewed	302
„ New windows fixed to provide additional light	15
„ Defective firegrates repaired or renewed	206
„ Defective doors repaired or renewed	30

No. of New sills provided or repaired to windows and doors	68
„ Defective stair treads repaired or renewed	23
„ Handrails provided to stairs	172
„ Defective coppers repaired or renewed	65
„ Rooms provided with permanent ventilation ...	556
„ Food cupboards provided	6
„ Defective food cupboards made sound	175
„ Glazed sinks provided in lieu of defective stone sinks	101
„ Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed	67
„ Walls cemented or tiled at back of sinks	111
„ Separate sinks and water supply provided	—
„ Houses provided with internal water supply (added areas—Old Fenlake)	2
„ Bath and sink waste pipes trapped	—
„ Rent books with absence of owner's name and address	6
„ Rent books with absence of Medical Officer of Health's name and address	6
„ Houses at which overcrowding abated	9

Water Closets.

No. of Premises where additional W.C. provided	16
„ Premises where separate W.C. accommodation provided	4
„ Premises where defective W.C. repaired or rebuilt	53
„ Pedestal pans provided	172
„ Lift-up seats provided in lieu of boxed-in seats ...	192
„ Defective W.C. seats repaired	1
„ Water supply provided	16
„ Defective cisterns or fittings repaired or renewed	33
„ Premises where W.C. compartments cleansed ...	84
„ Premises where ventilation and lighting provided ...	61
„ Premises where W.C. provided in lieu of dry receptacle	—

Outhouses.

No. of Defective Outhouses repaired or rebuilt	25
„ Defective spoutings repaired or renewed	5
„ Defective floors repaired or renewed	7
„ Outhouses cleansed	10
„ Outhouses demolished	2

Drainage.

No. of Blocked drains cleared and flushed	23
„ Defective drains repaired or partially reconstructed	35

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA						99
No. of Defective drains wholly relaid	24
„ Intercepting traps fixed	6
„ Intercepting or inspection chambers built	59
„ Intercepting or inspecting chambers repaired	12
„ New covers provided to inspection chambers	17
„ Fresh air inlets to intercepting traps provided or repaired	15
„ New soil and vent pipes fixed	49
„ Soil and vent pipes repaired	16
„ Insanitary traps abolished	1
„ Rain water pipes disconnected from drains	2
„ New covers provided to gullies	9

Yards.

No. of Houses at which yards were paved	40
„ Houses at which yard paving was repaired or renewed	183
„ Passages levelled and gravelled	—
„ Sanitary dustbins provided	180
„ Nuisances abated arising from accumulation of filth or keeping of animals	26
„ Houses at which ashpits demolished	—
„ Boundary walls repaired or renewed	17

Infectious Diseases.

No. of Rooms disinfected	236
„ Articles of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected	20,780
„ Rooms stripped and cleansed after infectious disease	19

Disinfestation.

No. of Rooms disinfested	366
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(b) Other Premises.

Slaughterhouses.

No. where Defective roofs and spouting remedied	—
„ „ Defective walls or ceilings remedied	—
„ „ Defective floors or yard paving remedied	—
„ „ Other improvements carried out	—
„ „ Blocked or defective drains remedied or reconstructed	5
„ „ Defective lighting and ventilation remedied	—
„ „ Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing carried out	32
„ „ W.C.'s built	5

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of New dairies constructed or established	—
„ Existing dairies at which other improvements carried out	4
„ Dairies where limewashing and general cleansing carried out	55

Factories, Workplaces and Workshops (including Bakehouses).

No. where Defective roofs or spouting remedied	1
„ „ Defective walls or ceilings remedied	—
„ „ Defective floors remedied	1
„ „ Defective yard pavings remedied	1
„ „ Other improvements carried out	1
„ „ Blocked or defective drains remedied or reconstructed	10
„ „ Defective lighting or ventilation remedied	—
„ „ Sanitary accommodation requirements complied with—(a) Provided	16
„ „ „ (b) Repaired	8
„ „ Overcrowding remedied	—
„ „ Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing carried out	26
„ „ Register provided	—
„ „ Sinks provided	6
„ „ Dustbins provided	—

Offensive Trades Premises.

No. where Limewashing and general cleansing carried out	15
„ „ Structural defects remedied	1
„ „ Floors relaid or repaired	1
„ „ Yards repaved or repaired	1
„ „ Premises entirely reconstructed	1
„ „ Drains reconstructed	1
„ „ Additional ventilation provided	—
„ „ New sanitary bins provided	2
„ „ Modern fish frying ranges fixed	3
„ „ Ranges repaired	—

Public Houses and Hotels.

No. where Flushes provided to urinals	—
„ „ W.C.'s provided or reinstated	—
„ „ Paving made sound	—

Refreshment Houses and Restaurant Kitchens.

No. where structural defects remedied	—
„ „ Other improvements carried out	—
„ „ Defective lighting or ventilation remedied	—
„ „ Limewashing or general cleansing carried out	—

Common Lodging Houses.

No. where structural defects remedied	1
„ „ Limewashing and general cleansing carried out	10
„ „ Other improvements carried out	3

Houses Let in Lodgings.

No. where structural defects remedied	7
„ „ Floors repaired	6
„ „ Additional ventilation provided	6
„ „ Proper food storage provided	2
„ „ Additional artificial light provided	1
„ „ Yards repaved	3
„ „ Drains reconstructed or repaired, and inspection chambers built, and soil and vent pipes fixed	—
No. of W.C. pedestal pans fixed	4
„ Additional W.C.'s provided	—
„ Additional glazed sinks fixed	2
„ Water service supply pipes fixed	—
„ Defective sinks replaced with glazed sinks	7
„ Sanitary dustbins provided	9
„ Rooms and staircases and passages cleansed and re-decorated	70
„ Additional cookers provided	—
„ Additional wash boilers provided	—
„ Overcrowded sleeping rooms abated (Manchester Standard)	—
„ W.C. fittings repaired or renewed	5

Animals (Premises).

No. where structural defects remedied	—
„ „ Limewashing and general cleansing carried out	—

Smoke Abatement.

No. of structural improvements	—
„ Smoke preventing apparatus installed	—

Amusement Houses.

No. where structural improvements effected	2
„ „ Cleansing and re-decoration carried out	2
„ „ Improvements to sanitary accommodation effected	1

Ice Cream Premises.

No. where Ceiling underdrawn	2
„ „ Floors repaired	1
„ „ Additional windows provided	2
„ „ Additional ventilation provided	2
„ „ Water supply laid on	2
„ „ Means of heating provided	2
„ „ Walls cleansed	1

Shops.

No. of W.C.'s provided	86
„ W.C. compartments repaired or rebuilt	7
Suitable arrangements made for W.C. accommodation	29
No. of pedestal pans provided in lieu of defective pans	65
„ Lift-up seats provided to pans	30
„ W.C. compartments cleansed	77
„ W.C. compartments lighted or ventilated	10
„ Blocked or defective drains remedied or re-constructed	3
„ New drains laid	28
Washing facilities provided	57
Suitable arrangements made for washing facilities	1
Heating provided	1
Ventilation provided	3
No. of shops or stores cleansed and re-decorated	32
„ Defective floors repaired	7
„ Defective yard pavings repaired	11
Other improvements carried out	15
Glazed sinks in lieu of defective sinks	39
Defective fittings and cisterns repaired or renewed	18
Sink waste pipes provided	28
Dustbins provided	8
New soil and vent pipes provided and fixed	12
Soil and vent pipes repaired	4
Inspection chambers provided	4
Walls cemented at back of sinks	1
Covers to inspection chambers	1
Accumulation of refuse, etc.	2
Eavesgutters repaired	1

(c) Administration of Byelaws, Orders and Regulations.

The administrative duties involved under the various Byelaws, Orders and Regulations, in respect of Houses Let in Lodgings, Common Lodging Houses, Slaughterhouses and Food Preparing Premises, Offensive Trades, Smoke Abatement, Dairies and Cowsheds and Amusement Houses, are carried out as a matter of systematic routine. Appropriate registers and records are maintained in connection with the various classes of premises included in this category.

In the course of effecting structural improvements in connection with premises due regard is made to the requirements of the Building Byelaws.

(d) Administration of Housing Acts, Public Health Acts and various Byelaws, Orders and Regulations.

The following table gives a summary of the Notices served to secure compliance with the provisions of the various Statutes, Byelaws, Orders and Regulations, together with the result of such action.

Statute.	No. of premises inspected.	Notices served.		Notices complied with.	Notices still outstanding.
		Informal.	Statutory.		
Housing Acts ...	613	517	1	300*	218
Public Health Acts ...	483	410	—	410	—
Shops Act	1022	173	—	124	49
Various Bye-laws, Orders and Regulations	95	68	—	64	4
Totals	2213	1168	1	898	271

* Includes one house inspected in the latter period of 1934.

At the end of the year under review a total of 218 notices, in connection with houses inspected under the Housing Acts, were still outstanding, but whilst instructions for the works to be proceeded with have been given, there is a delay in securing completion mainly due to the large number of skilled workmen who are engaged on various building operations in connection with new houses and public works at present in progress in the town and neighbourhood.

In the course of the administration duties as specified in the preceding table, a total of 6,383 interviews were held with the owners, builders, tenants, or their representatives on matters arising from inspections made and notices served.

It was found necessary in only one instance to serve a statutory notice, the usual experience being that the service of an informal

intimation followed by an interview usually results in the requirements being duly complied with.

The amount of time devoted in administrative duties in connection with the supervision of works carried out in securing compliance with notices served is considerable, the number of visits made are recorded in the summary on page 96.

4.—Rivers and Streams.

Supervision of the river through the town is maintained and no serious pollution has been detected or reported.

A certain amount of dumping of refuse has obtained in the water course known as "The King's Ditch," but this has not resulted in any serious nuisance.

In the Goldington area there is still some pollution of the ditches and ponds due to sewage from cesspools and slop water gaining access thereto, but this should be obviated when public sewers in this area are available.

5.—Refuse (Storage, Collection and Disposal).

(a) House Refuse.

Adequate supervision is maintained with regard to suitable storage of household refuse pending removal. During the year 180 informal notices requiring provision of galvanised sanitary bins were issued and duly complied with.

The systematic routine collection and disposal of refuse is carried out under the control of the Borough Engineer.

(b) Trade Refuse.

Appropriate arrangements are made by the various tradesmen in the town with regard to suitable storage and disposal of refuse arising in the course of the various trades conducted.

All household refuse and the bulk of trade refuse is disposed of by incineration at the Refuse Destructor Works.

A large quantity of incombustible material is disposed of on the land known as "Cox's Pits" (private land), and the supervision of the tipping is carried out under the control of the owners of the land. During the year numerous visits were made to this site, and apart from occasional firing of the refuse, and nuisance from dust arising from the approaches to the tip under certain weather conditions, there has been little cause for complaint.

6.—Stables and Other Premises where Animals are Kept.

There are now very few stables situated in the Borough, due to the increased use of mechanical transport, thus the risk of nuisance from accumulation of manure is greatly reduced.

During the summer special attention was paid to stables, and in only nine instances was it necessary to direct attention to the periodic removal of manure.

With respect to keeping of swine in the Old Borough, these are housed on the allotment fields, which are some considerable distance from dwelling houses. In parts of the added areas swine are being kept near to the dwelling houses, but no nuisances were found to exist at the times of visit.

During the year new Byelaws were adopted prescribing conditions under which swine may be kept. "It is not permitted to keep swine within 100 feet of any dwelling house unless the place in which such swine are kept is maintained in a cleanly and wholesome condition."

There is also very little cause to complain as to keeping of poultry, rabbits and pigeons in back gardens.

Attention was also given to premises known as "Zooland," where small species of animals, pets and birds are kept for sale and exhibition, and upon visitation it was found that the premises are invariably maintained in a satisfactory condition.

7.—Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

The menace of rat infestation has received due attention during the year.

The area most badly affected is in connection with large business premises of old type construction situated near the centre of the town. In connection with rebuilding schemes certain of these were recently demolished, and opportunity was afforded to effectively reduce the number of rats in this area. Similar reconstruction schemes are pending, when further opportunity for rat extermination will be afforded.

Every endeavour is made by the occupiers of premises in this area for effective rat repression by means of baiting and traps and the utilisation of cats and dogs.

In connection with the public sewers appropriate action is taken under the authority of the Borough Engineer by the placing of poison baits and traps in the street manholes.

Occasionally complaint is received with regard to infestation at isolated premises in other parts of the town, on receipt of which

appropriate action is taken to suppress infestation by means of poison baits and the remedying of any structural defects considered conducive to infestation.

It is not possible to record the number of rats destroyed.

No official rat week is observed in the Borough, it being deemed essential that throughout the whole of the year attention should be given to this problem.

In all 93 visits were made by the Inspectors to infested premises.

8.—Drains.

(a) Testing and Inspections.

(i) PRIVATE HOUSES AND OTHER PREMISES.

At 17 houses the drains were tested and reported upon on payment of a nominal fee.

This arrangement has been in practice within the Borough for a number of years.

Seven drains were found to be defective.

At 91 houses the drains were tested or inspected on complaint; in 70 instances defects were recorded.

In the course of visitation to houses in connection with infectious diseases, an inspection of the drains and sanitary arrangements is made as a matter of routine. In this connection no defects were discovered.

(ii) SCHOOLS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

The drains at schools and boarding houses in connection with the Harpur Trust are, by arrangement with the Department, tested and reported upon periodically on the payment of a nominal fee.

Also the drains to private schools and their boarding houses are, by arrangement, tested and reported upon annually on payment of a nominal fee.

A total of 61 schools and boarding house drains were tested, and in 13 instances defects were discovered:

The drains of the elementary schools are now under the control of the Borough Surveyor's Department.

(iii) SHOPS.

As a result of inspections made with regard to the sanitary provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, at 3 premises defects were discovered.

(b) Repairs.**(i) PRIVATE HOUSES AND OTHER PREMISES.**

At 24 houses or premises the drains were totally relaid, and at 35 houses or premises the drains were repaired, etc. In all 59 drains were made sound.

(ii) SCHOOLS AND BOARDING HOUSES.

Repairs were carried out to the drains at 13 school premises.

(iii) SHOPS.

Repairs were carried out to the drains at 3 premises.

(c) Remarks.

The proper construction of drains is regarded as an important sanitary feature, and special attention is given to the supervision of works of repair and reconstruction, in order to ensure that the work is carried out satisfactorily and attains to a modern standard both with regard to workmanship and materials used.

The duties of the supervision of drainage works have entailed 1,249 visits of inspection and the application of 247 re-tests in the course of carrying out the work.

A sum of £63 15s. 0d. was received as fees for the testing and reporting upon the drains at private houses, schools and school boarding houses and was duly paid into the Borough funds.

II. Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

1.—Houses Let in Lodgings.

Reference to the following table will show that there has been an increase in the number of premises used for this purpose.

On the Register at end of 1934	68
Added to Register during 1935	29
			—
			97
Removed from the Register during 1935	...		3
			—
Remaining on Register at the end of 1935	...		94
			—

The majority of these classes of houses are situated in the comparatively residential parts of the district, and are mostly of a large old-fashioned type, the rooms being of good size, but not a popular type of house such as are at present required for individual families, and therefore would no doubt remain untenanted unless they were utilised as "Houses Let in Lodgings."

It is found upon visiting these premises that a number of the occupiers have of recent date migrated to the town, having secured employment locally, and owing to a shortage of readily available "houses to let" have had recourse to reside in this type of dwelling.

Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1935, measurement of rooms in this class of premises was undertaken, for the purpose of ascertaining the permitted number of persons to each room.

There are in all 742 rooms, comprising 273 living rooms and 357 sleeping rooms and 112 combined sleeping and living rooms, accommodating 713 adults and 148 children (under 10 years of age), representing 374 families. In 21 instances children are occupying rooms used as a combined room.

Special attention is always given to this class of premises, as in a number of instances this is found to be necessary to ensure that the premises are maintained in a satisfactory condition and the requirements of the Byelaws duly observed.

In the course of the year a total of 341 visits of inspection and supervision were made to this class of premises.

2.—Common Lodging Houses.

There were 2 duly Registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough at the end of the year, with the accommodation as stated below.

8a, Tavistock Place	40 beds.
18, Allhallows Lane	8 beds.
				—
Total	48 beds.
				—

Males only are accommodated at these premises.

At the first mentioned premises there has been a reduction in the number of beds available, due to the requirements of the new Byelaws which came into operation in September 1935, which restrict the number of beds according to floor area and not on cubic capacity of room, as in previous Byelaws.

In addition to these two duly Registered Houses, there are three other premises at which persons of the working classes are being accommodated as lodgers, and the arrangements are such as to now warrant these premises being included in the class of Registered Common Lodging Houses.

The owners were therefore approached relative to this matter and early this year these premises were included on the Register of Common Lodging Houses.

The three premises concerned, with the accommodation available, are as follows :—

104, Greyfriars Walk	14 beds.
4, Allhallows Lane	19 beds.
22, Allhallows Lane	20 beds.
				—
Total	53 beds.
				—

The total accommodation in the five Registered Common Lodging Houses is now 101 beds, available for the use of males only.

Baths have been recently provided at 3 of these premises, with an available hot water supply.

There is now adequate facility with regard to washing and cooking arrangements and sanitary accommodation at each of these premises.

Returns received from the Keepers show a marked increase in the number of persons resorting to this class of premises, due chiefly to the influx of labour engaged upon public works in the neighbourhood.

These premises have been maintained in a satisfactory manner and the requirements of the Byelaws duly observed.

No notifications of any infectious disease amongst the lodgers was received.

Thirty-seven visits were paid to these premises during the year.

3.—Moveable Dwellings.

(Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.)

There are in the Borough during the winter months 9 vans situated in three yards or allotments, but during the spring and summer 6 of the vans travel about the country, whilst the others remain.

Constant supervision is paid to these vans and the same are kept in a cleanly state, water supply and sanitary accommodation is provided for the dwellers of the vans.

Inspection is also made of the caravans occupied by showmen attending the Statute Fairs in April and October. These vans were all found to be kept very clean and the health of the dwellers was reported good in every case.

No cause for complaint arose from persons occupying, during the summer months, the 9 huts on the river bank at Cardington.

In all 63 visits of inspection were made.

4.—Hotels, Public Houses, Refreshment Premises and Restaurant Kitchens.

During the year considerable improvements have been carried out in connection with this class of premises.

A reconstruction scheme has been carried out at one large hotel, and a modern type of ventilation plant installed.

At one large restaurant premises extensive structural alterations and improvements are in progress, and at two tea rooms improved sanitary accommodation has been provided.

One public house has been rebuilt, and in consequence of street widening one other public house is being reconstructed, whilst improved sanitary arrangements have been made at two other public houses.

Frequent periodic visits are made to all classes of premises where a catering business is carried on, to ensure that the food is prepared under satisfactory conditions and the premises suitably maintained.

Ninety-eight visits of inspection were made during the year under review.

5.—Amusement Houses.

At the end of 1935 there were in the Borough 1 theatre, 5 cinemas and 11 halls, apart from those attached to the Sunday Schools and Clubs, where concerts and dances are held.

Additional W.C. accommodation, urinals and washing facilities have been provided for the use of the patrons of the "Balcony" and "Circles"; also improvements made to urinal accommodation on the ground floor at the County Theatre.

At 1 other premises where public functions are held improved cloakroom and sanitary accommodation was provided and the rooms suitably re-decorated.

From a number of visits to these premises it has been noted that the same are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Forty-three visits in all were made to this type of premises.

6.—Offensive Trades.

The number of premises in the Borough included under this heading is as follows:—

Fish frying—17 premises and 5 vans.

Rag and Bone dealers—5 premises.

During the year an obsolete motor bus, situated in the added areas and used for the business of fish frying, was dispensed with, being replaced on a nearby site by a modern brick-built house and shop, together with suitable outbuildings. At the new premises there was installed a modern type gas-fired range.

At one other fish frying premises entire reconstruction was carried out and all the latest fish frying appliances installed.

New gas-fired ranges were installed at two other premises.

No complaints have been received in connection with any of the fish frying premises in the town, which upon inspection have been found to be maintained in a cleanly state.

With reference to rag and bone premises, particular attention was paid during the summer months to ensure suitable storage and speedy removal of offensive waste, and the occupiers of these premises endeavoured to conduct their business without giving rise to cause for any serious complaint.

Ninety-four visits were made to these types of premises during the year.

III. Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

Rag flock is not manufactured in the Borough, and only at two premises is the commodity used in small quantities. These premises were visited, and as the rag flock was sold under a guarantee it was not thought necessary to take samples.

IV. Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

1.—General Scope of Work.

The supervision as regards factories, both textile and non-textile, is under the control of H.M. Inspector of Factories, with the exception of the provision of and maintaining sanitary accommodation in proper order, but the sanitary condition, etc., of all domestic factories, workshops and workplaces is under the control of the Sanitary Authority.

At the end of the year there were on the Register 498 factories, workshops, bakehouses and workplaces.

During the year one notification was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories as to the occupation of a workshop in the Borough, and this was added to the Register.

In four instances notifications were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories relative to contraventions of the Act as follows:—

- (1) Limewashing of one bakehouse overdue.
- (2) Workroom required limewashing.
- (3) Sanitary accommodation—flush defective.
- (4) Sanitary convenience not kept in cleanly state.

Upon taking appropriate action these breaches of the Act were rectified and H.M. Inspector duly informed.

During the year special attention has been given to the sanitary accommodation in connection with workshop premises, and at 16 premises additional W.C.'s have been provided, whilst with regard to one workshop premises, with a personnel of two males (both members of the same family) where no sanitary accommodation is provided, an informal notice was served, and plans submitted by the occupier for the erection of a W.C., but so far this has not been proceeded with. The matter was referred to the Authority, and after consideration of all the circumstances it was resolved that no immediate action be taken.

Following complaint of infestation with vermin in one of the workshops and offices at one of the engineering works in the town, the matter was investigated and necessary action taken.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries and Bakehouses)	178	15	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries and Bakehouses)	397	24	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers Premises)	54	14	—
Totals ...	629	53	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecu- tions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	27	26	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	1	1	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	17	16	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	10	8	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s.101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences†	—	—	—	—
Totals	55	51	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.

2.—Homework.

In order to supervise premises where homework of certain specified classes is carried on, occupiers of factories and workshops are required to submit lists of outworkers twice a year, February and August.

During the year 59 forms were sent to occupiers and 46 duly returned giving the names of 43 outworkers; notifications were also received from 3 other authorities in respect of 3 persons, making a total of 46 outworkers.

No cases of infectious disease occurred amongst these outworkers.

Thirty-five visits of inspection were made to outworkers' premises and they were found to be kept in a satisfactory manner.

V. Disinfection and Disinfestation.

1.—Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

After notification of infectious diseases, disinfection of rooms, clothing and bedding, etc., is carried out as a matter of systematic routine following the removal of the patient to the Isolation Hospitals or recovery of the patient after isolation at home.

The disinfection of rooms and contents is by means of formalin fumigation and occasionally the clothing and bedding is subjected to steam disinfection at the disinfecting station or Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection is also carried out to rooms, etc., occupied by persons suffering from tuberculosis. Rooms and contents that have been occupied or used by persons suffering from cancer are also disinfected.

In all cases of infectious diseases, tuberculosis and cancer, the disinfection is carried out without a charge, but in cases of other illnesses a nominal charge is made to cover the cost of disinfectants only.

The following table shows the number of disinfections in connection with the various classes of diseases.

	Rooms.	Articles of bedding and clothing, &c.
Notifiable Infectious Diseases ...	165	14,475
Tuberculosis	27	2,400
Cancer and other Diseases ..	44	3,905
Totals	236	20,780

A number of books belonging to certain private libraries were destroyed in accordance with instructions of the librarians owing to the occurrence of infectious disease in the homes of the borrowers, whilst in case of the public libraries the books were disinfected.

All houses in which cases of infectious diseases occur are made the subject of inspection and attention is also given to ascertain the condition of the drains and sanitary fittings.

215 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors with regard to the investigation of cases of infectious diseases and disinfections in connection therewith.

2.—Disinfestation.

The eradication of vermin from houses receives continuous attention from the Department.

Cases of infestation are usually discovered as a result of housing inspection or by report of the Housing Manager and Health Visitors.

In order to secure an effective remedy the co-operation of the tenant and landlord is essential. Superficial woodwork is removed and all paper stripped off walls, badly infested bedding burnt and bedsteads treated with a plumber's blow-lamp. Then an effective "Insecticide" is sprayed on the walls and floors, which process is repeated at intervals of seven days until all signs of the vermin have disappeared.

Owing to the fairly hot summer there appeared to be an increase of infestation among certain classes of houses, but systematic action was taken, and as a result 366 rooms contained in 184 houses were dealt with.

In a few cases it was necessary to destroy bedding. It was also necessary to carry out disinfestation of articles of furniture and bedding before allowing occupants of certain cottages that were unfit for habitation or living under overcrowded conditions to be rehoused on the Housing Estates so as to avoid as far as possible the infestation of Council Houses.

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